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INTERNATIONAL EDITION

THE LATEST NEWS FROM ISRAEL
Published in Jerusalem
יצא לאור בירושלים

DON'T MISS
JEWISH OBSERVER
INSIDE!

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Fears of Saudi arms build-up

Jerusalem Post Staff

Israel observers are expressing apprehension at the possibility of Saudi Arabia receiving massive supplies of advanced weaponry from the U.S. and Western Europe. Such supplies would constitute a clear threat to Israel's security, it is stated.

The prospect of America upgrading the offensive capacity of the 60 F-15 fighters it is supplying to the Saudis was among the issues taken up by Israel Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir during his current trip to the U.S.

It is understood that if the U.S. does accede to the Saudi request, Israel will be "suitably compensated." Mr. Shamir, however, has explained during his talks in Washington that Israel is strongly opposed to Saudi getting equipment which would extend the range of the F-15s and constitute a clear threat to Israel's cities.

Reports of further Saudi efforts to bolster its aerial strength came at the weekend from Bonn, where it announced that the Riyadh government wants to buy 200 ultra-modern Tornado jet fighters built by Britain, Italy and West Germany. The request was expected to renew pressure on Bonn to revise its restrictive arms-export policy.

Government spokesman Kurt Becker confirmed newspaper reports that Saudi Arabia had asked Britain for the supersonic jets, but said talks with Italy and Britain

would precede any decision on delivery.

The Bonn cabinet will discuss "the questions thrown up here," at a meeting this week, Becker said, suggesting ministers would review arms-export policy as promised since Saudi interest in West German Leopard II tanks and other weapons became public last month.

In Jerusalem, Israeli officials said last week that there are "grounds for hope" that the proposed sale of 300 West German Leopard tanks to Saudi Arabia will not go through. They say they detect "signs of slight retreat" on the part of the pro-deal circles within Germany's ruling Social Democratic Party.

Israel itself is taking care not to intrude too visibly or vigorously in the bitter argument between the pro- and anti-deal camps in Bonn. Massive public Israeli involvement would be "counter-productive," Israeli sources said last week, noting with satisfaction that the forces opposed to the Saudi arms deal were being strongly led by the powerful Social Democratic parliamentary floor leader, Herbert Wehner, and former chancellor Willy Brandt, the party chairman.

Concern has also been expressed in Israel at reports of a huge arms-buying spree by Iraq. The purchase by Iraq — an intransigent enemy of Israel — of tanks, transport planes and cannons from France, West Germany, Spain and Eastern Europe is said to exceed by far any

needs for the conflict with Iran.

Meanwhile, the Saudi Government has reportedly informed the U.S. it will refuse to take delivery of the F-15 fighters it is due to receive unless these come equipped with auxiliary fuel tanks and rocket launchers.

Western diplomats in Saudi Arabia have argued the extra fuel tanks, bomb racks and air-to-air missiles are needed to extend the range and fighting power of the interceptors in order to adequately guard the oil fields of the world's largest exporter. But observers in Jerusalem point to Saudi Arabia's uncompromising opposition to Israel and its identification with the threats of a "holy war."

Concerning the proposed German tank deal, deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Zipori said last week that Israel has a powerful moral case in opposing the sale.

"With the U.S., we must do the best we can, but our argument with the Germans is much more profound, with serious moral dimensions," he said.

Zipori emphasized Germany "very great moral debt towards Israel," and asked rhetorically: "Has the blood spilled by Germany already been forgotten?"

An editorial in *The Jerusalem Post* says that Foreign Minister Shamir has made plain in the U.S. that Israel strongly opposes the administration's intention to supply

(Continued on page 2.)

DON'T MISS

JEWISH OBSERVER

INSIDE!



Yosef Mendelevich kisses a stone in the Western Wall. The former Prisoner of Zion arrived in Israel last week after 11 years' imprisonment in the Soviet Union for his part in the abortive attempt by a group of Russians to flee to the west. (Rahamim Yisraeli)

Jerusalem Post Staff

Former Prisoner of Zion Yosef Mendelevich, released unexpectedly by Soviet authorities on Wednesday of last week, spent his first weekend in Israel with his sister and her family in the West Bank settlement of Alon Shvut.

Mendelevich arrived in Israel Wednesday night to one of the most tumultuous welcomes ever witnessed at Ben-Gurion International Airport. (Report on page 10.) Only a week earlier, Mendelevich was reported missing from the Ural Mountains labour camp at which he was being held.

Mendelevich had been imprisoned since 1970, shortly after he and a group of about 35 other persons — "the Leningrad group" — failed in their bid to flee to the west in an aircraft. Unlike most other members of the group, Mendelevich was not released from jail in 1979. Still imprisoned are the two non-Jewish members of the group — Alexei Murzhenko and Yuri Deborov.

In an interview on Israel Television Saturday night, Mendelevich declared:

"My impression after coming to Israel is that Israelis are fantastic in the receptions they organize for freed Prisoners of Zion, but take very little interest in them while they are still languishing in prison."

Mendelevich's family and friends had prevented the television crew

from interviewing him at the airport on Wednesday night, claiming that Israel TV had ignored him all these years.

Reiterating his conviction that while in prison, he and his fellow prisoners very rarely if ever felt that anything was being done for them in the outside world, Mendelevich asked to remind viewers and the whole world of the others he left behind — besides Fedorov and Murzhenko — Ida Nudel, Vladimir Slepak, Yosef Begun, Victor Brulovsky and Anatoly "Nathan" Shecharansky.

Less than 24 hours after arriving in Israel, Mendelevich called on "all Jews to come here to our sweet and holy country" and to "do all in their power" to fight for the right of Jews to emigrate from the Soviet Union.

Arriving late at a press conference on Thursday, in his sister's home in Alon Shvut, Mendelevich explained that he had visited the grave of his father on Jerusalem's Mt. of Olives and stopped at the hospital bed of Transport Minister Haim Landau, who, he said, had done much to aid his family during his years of imprisonment. Earlier, he had risen at 6 a.m. to attend morning services in synagogue, where he recited the traditional *gamel*

prayer of thanksgiving for delivery from danger.

His physical slightness was accentuated by his clothes — the same as those he wore on his arrival — a stark black suit, tieless white shirt buttoned to the top, *arba kanfot* (ritual fringes) under his jacket, and dark hat with curled-up rim pulled down on his head.

Despite this mode of dress, his facility at Hebrew — more grammatical than that of some of the reporters — gave the impression that he was very much at home. Only with reluctance did he part with the language for a few moments to answer some questions in English, Russian and Yiddish.

His last week in Russia was "especially tense," he said. It began when his jailers ordered him out of his cell with all his belongings. "I didn't think anything good would come of it," he recalled. KGB and prison officials told him he had been deprived of his citizenship.

A prisoner who was in Camp No. 35 with Prisoner of Zion Anatoly Shecharansky told Mendelevich that Shecharansky was put in a punishment cell for two weeks and mistreated. Mendelevich did not know of the condition of Ida Nudel, now in Siberia, because he hadn't received any letters for three years.

Mendelevich 'home' in Israel

Mendelevich asked to interrupt the press conference so that he could recite the afternoon *mincha* prayer at the appropriate time. He noted that he suffered more than others in prison because he is a religious Jew.

The former Prisoner of Zion said that when public pressure was stronger, he and his fellow prisoners were treated "a little more politely." But that occurred "rather seldom," leading him to the conclusion that his cause did not receive as much constant public support as he would have wished.

Mendelevich, who was jailed in the midst of his engineering studies, did not reveal specific plans for the future. "I came to this holy land... to live as a Jew and to observe the laws of the Torah."

Almost immediately after arriving in Israel, Mendelevich headed for Jerusalem, to pray at the Western Wall.

With thousands of Jews accompanying him on the walk through

the plaza to the Wall, Mendelevich was a scarcely seen figure, surrounded by singing and dancing men. His eyes gleaming, he was supported on both sides by police officers who were forced to shout above the din of the crowd to clear the way for him.

Finally reaching the wall, he offered first the prayer of thanksgiving, the *Shehecheyanu*, and then a prayer of remembrance, the *Kaddish*.

The fact that he had been on a hunger strike for about three and a half months, had aroused considerable concern for his well-being.

Prime Minister Menachem Begin yesterday spoke by phone to Mendelevich immediately upon his arrival in Vienna, welcoming him to the Free World.

Begin said later that for two days "we had signs that good news was afoot but put a tight security lid on things lest publicity foil his release."

Mendelevich, had become devoutly religious and suffered great hardship for this at the hands of his jailers. He would not work on the Sabbath, and was even more

(Continued on page 2.)

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IT IS time to speak openly of one of the country's major, and most painful, problems: the non-functioning of Menachem Begin as prime minister and defence minister.

Mr. Begin was personally responsible for making known to the public the bare facts of his illness: what is known in non-medical language as a series of heart attacks, heart disease and stroke. He, his immediate circle, and his medical attendants, however, have been much less frank in informing the public on the cumulative effects of those ailments and his medications.

The cumulative evidence of close to four years leaves the non-expert with only two possible explanations for the prime minister's role in the malfunctioning of his government: either Mr. Begin was a sham all along, or that he, tragically, attained the acme of his political career when he was already a sick man and no longer capable of translating the ideas to which he had devoted his life into political reality.

The "Begin was always a sham" hypothesis is patent foolishness.

One needn't be a political supporter of Mr. Begin to recognize the power of the man to command the intense loyalty and devotion of countless followers. Mr. Begin never evinced any concern for the humdrum, but essential, managerial aspects of political leadership. But

The issue under the carpet

in his heyday he always had masterful control of the realities of power within his own party.

His close to four years in office, however, have been characterized by a far-reaching abdication of power. Prime Minister Begin has consistently failed to use in office the impressive power he had built up over a lifelong political career.

MR. BEGIN'S government has been notorious for its failure to maintain even a modicum of unity, or even of collegiality within its dominant political framework, the Likud. There has not even been a tolerable working relationship among the coalition's barons. Such failures can only be laid at the feet of the government's ostensible leader.

Mr. Begin is known to take great pride in his major accomplishment, peace with Egypt. It is truly his achievement only in the sense that Begin confounded the predictions of his political enemies, who sought to characterize him as an innate warmonger who would reject out of hand any peace overture from any Arab leader. The prime minister deserves the gratitude of every Israeli for proving those predictions

In this VIEWPOINT, Yosef Goell discusses Mr. Begin's role in the government's 'failures.'

wrong.

But that should not obscure the year-and-a-half experience of bungling, foot-dragging, indecision and squabbling in the Israeli peace negotiating team of Begin, Dayan and Weizman, which led to worse results for Israel than could have been expected from a more united and guided effort.

As a party leader, Mr. Begin combines an antagonism towards anyone with the temerity to challenge him for the party's top leadership with an exaggerated loyalty to those whose own loyalty made his ultimate rise to power possible.

Consequently he has emptied his own party of nearly its entire reservoir of talented potential officeholders, and foisted a man like Simha Ehrlich on the country as its economic leader and kept him at the helm long after the ruinous character of his stewardship was obvious to all.

Perhaps the most dangerous of Mr. Begin's acts of abdication has been his failure to name a minister of stature to head the Ministry of Defence after Ezer Weizman's resignation nearly nine months ago. It is no secret that the prime minister's retention of the defence portfolio in his own hands, despite his physical inability to devote due attention to the problems of Israel's security, has been a major source of demoralization in the army.

One need not be charitable, however, to conclude that a major explanation for many — but not all — of the things that have gone wrong during his premiership have been the result of ill health.

WHATEVER one may say about Mr. Begin, one central attribute is undeniable: his life-long devotion to Jewish people and to Israel. As a true patriot, and in light of the painful record of his incumbency, Mr. Begin should announce his retirement from politics because of the state of ill health.

We have been faced with ailing leaders in the past. The truth about Prime Minister Levi Eshkol's state of health during the last few

months before his death in January 1969 was kept secret from the public. Golda Meir originally had the good sense to insist on retiring from politics in the summer of 1973 when she felt old age coming on, but was talked out of it by a frantic Labour Party, a fact she regretted to her dying day.

The difference between those cases and that of Mr. Begin is that neither Eshkol nor Golda possessed the charismatic power over their party and their governments that Begin has over his. In the case of Eshkol, his government could and did continue to function. In the case of Begin, the nature of his power has been such that a non-functioning or only fitfully functioning prime minister has meant a paralysed and often counter-productive government.

Mr. Begin owes it to the nation to whom he has devoted his life to announce his retirement from politics even before the coming elections. He owes it to his own party to persuade it of the need to pick a new leader, and to accept the fact of his retirement with as much grace as possible.

Paradoxically, Herut may even do better at the polls if it has the courage to confront the fact of Mr. Begin's inability to continue to lead and to present itself to the public's judgment under new leadership.

HOME NEWS

Police problems in religious areas

NEWS ANALYSIS
ROBERT ROSENBERG

At least 45 Orthodox Jews from Jerusalem's Mea She'arim and the adjacent Bukharan Quarters are currently facing charges in Magistrates Court for incidents that took place in those neighbourhoods during the past few weeks.

Police sources last week admitted that there has been a change in police policy vis-à-vis religious Jews who take part in the often violent and demonstrations in Mea She'arim.

Early last week, Agudat Yisrael MK Menachem Porush, as well as deputy mayor Avraham Lazerson (also of Aguda), met with acting Southern District Commander Tzitzay Yehoshua Caspi to discuss police practices.

According to reports of that meeting, Porush and Lazerson complained that "as opposed to past years, the police are not releasing prisoners arrested during demonstrations."

The change in police policy was signalled more than a month ago, but its effects are only now reaching Rehov Mea She'arim. The policy change was first seen during demonstrations that broke out in the Bukharan Quarter and swept into the Mea She'arim neighbourhood. That night police arrested and held in custody more than a dozen demonstrators. But at the time it was thought that the specific circumstances of that demonstration — a costly, violent affair lasting well into the night — led to the arrests.

The demonstrations were sparked by allegedly illegal post-mortems having been carried out at Hadassah Hospital, and a Jerusalem Municipality decision to open a mixed (boys and girls) youth centre

in the Bukharan Quarter.

However, since then there have been at least 50 more arrests, with 41 cases actually brought to court. The effects of the policy were seen recently in Mea She'arim, when night-time demonstrations involved much more screaming at policemen from balconies than it did throwing rocks at passing cars and buses. Only handfuls of youngsters did battle, with their elders and peers egging them on from the porches.

How the police will ever improve relations with the Orthodox Jews is another problem. But right now at City Hall and at Egged bus company, the two agencies that bear the brunt of the antagonism to the Zionist, secular state along with the police, the priority seems to be to let it be known in the religious district that there are secular laws which shall be enforced in the capital, even in the religious neighbourhoods.

All Zionists, but aliya not essential

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Diaspora fund-raising members of the Jewish Agency board of governors have joined with the Zionist Organization members to affirm the centrality of Israel in Jewish life and the importance of aliya.

The 30 Diaspora fund-raisers, who have been known since the agency was reconstituted 10 years ago as "non-Zionists," declared at last week's three-day retreat in Caesarea that "we are all Zionists."

The chairman of the agency board of governors, Max Fisher, told a press conference in Jerusalem later that the special closed retreat "far exceeded our expectations."

The 60 board members endorsed the Jerusalem Programme, a general, five-point statement made at the 27th Zionist Congress in 1968 that affirms the unity of the Jewish People, the centrality of Israel and the importance of aliya. It does not, however, require signatories of the programme to come on aliya themselves.

The chairman of the Jewish Agency, Arye Dulzin, said that even the Zionist Congress never required its delegates to make a personal commitment to aliya. "We've lived with this contradiction for 100 years," he said, "and the state was nevertheless established."

Fisher agreed with a questioner that the soaring intermarriage and assimilation rates abroad had a large part in convincing the "non-Zionists" that their new way is the only way to go.

Asked whether the fund-raisers had convinced the Zionists to abandon the party key that hands executive positions to party loyalists, Fisher said a party man could not get the job if he did not meet certain criteria.

Visitors from Britain

A group of 30 persons from Britain's Board of Deputies, the representative body of British Jewry, has arrived in Israel on an eight-day study mission. Delegation head is Arish Handler, chairman of the board's Israel committee.



Instead of a ticket, this policewoman gave a jaywalker on Jerusalem's Jaffa Road a printed notice explaining that 50 per cent of traffic fatalities are pedestrians. The information effort was part of last week's country-wide road safety campaign. A police spokesman said that 17,994 persons were victims of traffic accidents last year, 433 of whom died. In 1979, 20,630 persons were involved in accidents, of whom 566 were killed. (Eluza Harari)

Volunteer group encouraging emigrants to return from U.S.

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

An independent, voluntary organization based in Philadelphia and Israel — and founded by Israelis temporarily working or studying in the U.S. — is working to encourage emigrants to come back.

Ayala, the Hebrew acronym for "Israeli Citizens for Returning Home," has over 100 families and singles who are members in the U.S., and over 150 members in Israel who have volunteered to assist in the absorption of returning emigrants, according to Yehzekel Harel, a founder of the organization.

Volunteers in Israel scour newspaper advertisements for job tenders and circulate *curricula vitae* of potential returnees.

Dr. Yizhak Mann, another Ayala volunteer, said that the organization has so far limited the size of its Israeli membership until the American side of the organization grows larger, but "we are sure that a large number of volunteers will be available here to help."

Ayala can be reached in the U.S. through Elkan Rosenberg, 516 W. Cherry Hill Apts., Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08002.

Aryeh Feigenbaum, pioneer eye doctor

Prof. Aryeh Feigenbaum, pioneer ophthalmologist, teacher and head of the Hadassah Hospital eye department for many years, died in Jerusalem on Friday, aged 96.

He is survived by his daughters Henda and Naomi and their children and grandchildren.

He was born in Lvov, then a city of the Austro-Hungarian Empire on August 10, 1885. He graduated from Vienna University in 1911.

He made his first visit here in 1911 when he travelled through the land on horse and mule-back. In 1912 the American philanthropist Nathan Strauss set up a Jewish Health Bureau in Jerusalem. Feigenbaum arrived in 1913 to head the eye department, and the following year he married Rahel Meyouhas of Jerusalem. He founded the medical journal "Harefuah" in 1920.

In 1918, the American Zionist Medical Unit (the forerunner of Hadassah) arrived, and in 1922, with the demise of the Strauss bureau, Feigenbaum joined Hadassah as head of its Ophthalmic Department.

His life-long work in eye diseases helped to reduce the incidence of trachoma and acute seasonal ophthalmia in Palestine. He published numerous papers and books on the history of medicine and on eye diseases.



He also used to play the viola with the Hebrew University Orchestra, and in his late fifties took up painting.

In 1954 he was named professor emeritus of ophthalmology at the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical School.

He won the Henrietta Szold Prize for outstanding medical service in 1964 and an honorary doctorate from the Hebrew University in 1965. Feigenbaum was the author of *The Eye*, the first Hebrew textbook on ophthalmology. He founded the Israel Ophthalmological Society in 1931.

A.Z.

Accent on the positive

By LEA LEVAVI
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — If radio and television don't report more positive aspects of Israeli life, a group of citizens intends to do so itself. And if that doesn't work, they may broadcast their messages in other ways — such as by placing tape recorders and video-tape machines in public places.

The Movement for Creativity and Encouragement of the Positive in Israel, which has as its slogan, "It Can Be Different," held a press conference here yesterday to announce the aims of the new nonpartisan organization. Their first goal is to unite all voluntary service organizations to bring a panoply of

good deeds and positive actions before the media.

"When visitors come here, they're amazed at Israel's success," said Yigal Ben-David, one of the movement's founders, "but they don't understand why the Israel they read about in *The Jerusalem Post* or see on television isn't the same Israel whose positive aspects they see during their visit."

Ben-David and his colleagues hope that the media will cooperate and publicize the positive when the Creativity Movement disseminates positive information. If not, they'll look for ways to take matters — and microphones — into their own hands, they said.



Swedish actress Ingrid Bergman pictured outside Haifa's Dan Carmel hotel last week. Although she is in Israel on a private visit, the star of Casablanca and *For Whom the Bell Tolls* is film producer Gene Corman's first choice for the title role in a planned two-part TV film on the life of Golda Meir. She herself has already expressed an interest in playing the part. (Bezalel Epstein)

TA Maccabi beats Bologna

TEL AVIV. — Tel Aviv Maccabi last Thursday night brought 10,000 fans to their feet at Yad Eliahu stadium in a nail-biting finish in which they beat Sinudyne Bologna 92-88.

Maccabi produced some scintillating basketball, in the first half outpacing the taller Italian champions and shooting with splendid accuracy.

Maccabi have only to win one of their two remaining European Cup fixtures against Den Bosch in Holland and Bosna Sarajevo at Yad Eliahu to win their place in the

final at Strasbourg on March 26. Maccabi travel to Holland to face Den Bosch on Wednesday night.

The Tel Avivians now lead the six squad champions table with 13 points from eight games — five wins and three defeats — with Sinudyne Bologna on the 12 points mark from seven games. Real Madrid have only an outside chance of reaching the final — they would have to win both in Bologna and Moscow.

Tel Aviv Maccabi has not lost a European Cup game at home for the past four years.

Scottish fans here for World Cup

Post Sports Reporter

The vanguard of 1,500 Scottish supporters have arrived to see the Israel-Scotland football game to be played at Ramat Gan this week.

The immediate reaction of some of the visitors was that "the weather here is like summer in Scotland: it was snowing when we left."

For both Scotland and Israel, a victory this week will be extremely important in their quest to gain one of the two top places in

their six-nation World Cup group. Jock Stein, the Scotland manager, is worried that his star-studded team has scored only one goal in two World Cup qualifying games.

After three draws and one defeat, only a win would give Israel an outside chance of a place in the World Cup finals. Anything but a win over Israel would be considered a serious blow to Scotland's chances of gaining a place in World Cup finals in Spain in 1982.

Universities shut by lecturer sanctions

Jerusalem Post Staff

There were no classes at Israel's universities on Sunday as lecturers stayed away to press pay demands.

A meeting between the heads of the universities — who in effect act as go-betweens for the lecturers and the Treasury — and Finance Minister Yoram Aridor is scheduled for this week.

The lecturers, who claim that their salaries have fallen far behind inflation, want a committee to be set up to determine the extent of the erosion.

Meanwhile, representatives of the Civil Service Commission and

the nation's primary and secondary school teachers have been meeting in a last-ditch effort to head off labour sanctions threatened by the teachers, beginning this week. The teachers are insisting upon fulfillment of the Etzioni Commission Report — accepted in principle by the Government — which, besides calling for the upgrading of teachers' status, also recommends pay increases of between 30 and 60 per cent.

On Wednesday of last week, more than a million schoolchildren stayed at home as teachers staged a warning strike.

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HOME NEWS

Minister's bribery trial begins

By DAVID LANDAU
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The bribery trial of Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abuhatzela got off to an undramatic start at the Jerusalem District Court on Sunday of last week with most attention centered on Bnei Brak, where Deputy Mayor Yisrael Gottlieb, the state's key witness in the case, was attacked by a lone assailant.

(Gottlieb, 64, was struck in the face and body with a blunt metal instrument while sitting in his office in the Bnei Brak Municipality. Police arrested a suspect — a 43-year-old man reportedly an employee in the diamond plant owned by Shmuel Daskal, one of the three other defendants in the Abuhatzela trial. Gottlieb has since yielded to police requests and agreed to take up temporary residence at the Netanya police resort near Netanya, for his own protection.)

Abuhatzela and his three co-defendants sat impassively through seven hours of often technical and tedious procedure. The battery of defence attorneys sought to chip away at the credibility of the first two prosecution witnesses — young detectives on the staff of fraud squad chief Tut-Nitzav Binyamin Siegel.

The charge-sheet in brief alleges:

- that Abuhatzela received bribes totalling \$52,500 from three religious institutions in Bnei Brak: \$25,000 from the Vishnitz Hassidic community, \$22,500 from the Spinka Hassidic community, and \$5,000 from the Yemite Culture Foundation headed by Amram Korach;
- that Moshe Gabai, the minister's top aide and close friend, conveyed the bribe money, which was funnelled through Gottlieb, to the minister. He is also therefore charged with receiving bribes;
- that Shmuel Daskal, a Bnei Brak diamond dealer and a leader of the

Vishnitz community, gave Abuhatzela and Gabai \$22,500 in bribe money through Gottlieb;

- that Korach gave Abuhatzela and Gabai \$5,000 in bribe money, also through Gottlieb.

All the bribes, according to the prosecution, were kickbacks in return for grants and loans made by the ministry to the institutions in question.

State Attorney Gavriel Bach and Jerusalem District Attorney Michael Kirsch contended that Korach's refusal to reply at that interrogation in October should count against him. While an accused man has the right to remain silent, his decision to do so in the face of damning *prima facie* evidence presented to him by the police carries a certain implication of guilt, the prosecution argued.

Last week, Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir also decided to charge Abuhatzela with misappropriating public funds for his own use while he served as mayor of Ramle.

Zamir asked the Speaker of the Knesset to lift the minister's immunity for this additional charge and submitted a copy of the charge sheet and a copy of the evidence collected by police.

The charge sheet refers to allegations made by the Ramle municipality to the Abuhatzela Memorial Fund when the minister was mayor and which the state alleges he misappropriated for his private use.

As the trial continued, the first shots began to be fired in the battle over the credibility of Yisrael Gottlieb, the key state's witness, who has been granted immunity from prosecution on condition that he testifies against the minister and the three other defendants.

Reuven Gornitz, Gottlieb's personal friend and political ally, said in court Gottlieb had urged him to lie to police about a sum of \$100

Gottlieb had given him with the request that he (Gornitz) say it was intended for charity.

"I flatly refused," said Gornitz. "I told him I would say he had given me the money for expenses of our party's (National Religious Party) Likud u-Temura faction — which was the truth."

The trial continues.

If Abuhatzela has to face a second trial on new charges Sephardi Jews abroad will again raise funds for his defence.

"We'll have another campaign — just like the UJA," Sephardi leader Steven Shalom of New York told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Shalom, noted philanthropist in the U.S. Sephardi community, was in the Jerusalem District Court last week to watch the proceedings. Together with Nessim Gaon of Geneva, and Lilliane Winn, a New Yorker who heads the American Sephardi Federation, Shalom was active in raising the funds — reportedly \$300,000 — to pay for the minister's defence.

Gaon, Shalom, and Winn contributed substantially from their own pockets, and solicited contributions from others. Winn said that by no means were all of those she canvassed Sephardim.

She said she was convinced of the minister's innocence because back in 1977 he had flatly rejected offers of financial support from leading American Sephardim, who wanted to help him take over the leadership of the National Religious Party.

Abuhatzela's diaspora supporters are not picking up the tab for his close aide and co-defendant, Moshe Gabai.

Winn said that she did not know why Gabai was not also being helped by her friends and herself in meeting legal costs. She thought that his relations in France were assisting him.



Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abuhatzela holds a car door open for Lilliane Winn, of the American Sephardi Federation, outside the Jerusalem District Court on the day the trial opened. Winn, who flew in to the country specially to attend the trial, confirmed that she and other persons were covering the minister's legal expenses. "I would give anything I own for a friend," she said. Below, Bribe-case co-defendants (left to right) Shmuel Daskal, Amram Korach and Moshe Gabai.



Donations exceed hopes—both fund drives continue

By HELEN ROSSI

It has indeed been a privilege to read the thousands of letters that have accompanied contributions to both *The Jerusalem Post's* fundraising drives. The letters are full of warm kindness and understanding towards the work this paper has undertaken in launching its "Forsake Me Not" drive for the elderly and infirm, and the 32nd Toy Fund for the young.

Those who have followed our lists of donors to both funds must have noticed that nearly all of the contributions have come from the ordinary readers of *The Jerusalem Post* daily and its International Edition. As we have noted before — the large well-known business corporations were missing, as were individuals who might be numbered among the rich.

Contributions to the "Forsake Me Not" drive during the past week amounted to \$180,779.55. This brings the total so far to \$184,866.85.

Two letters to the "Forsake Me Not" fund make our story this week. One comes from a "small Christian Fellowship in a town with a population of about 300 to 500 located in northwestern Montana." They are called the Faith Farm

Christian Fellowship. And, in addition to their contribution of \$150, Pastor Richard McKinnis, writes: "We will continue to pray for Israel."

In another vein, Carol Grunberg, treasurer of the Shalom Club of Temple Israel of Great Neck, N.Y., writes: "I am pleased to inform you that at a recent meeting of the Board of Directors we decided to donate \$500 to your 'Forsake Me Not' fund. We hope that our donation will, in some measure, help your worthy cause."

All these donations will help us do more than originally planned — and they have inspired us to carry on for as long as our readers find ways of making contributions.

Donors of last week to *The Jerusalem Post's* "Forsake Me Not" drive include:

\$500 Shalom Club of Temple Israel, Great Neck, N.Y.
\$150 Faith Farm Christian Fellowship, Froid, Montana.
\$125 In memory of our beloved parents, Josef and Hanneke Sachs — Ella and Meri Sachs, (Hebriki, Finland).
\$100 Anonymous, Jerusalem.
\$75 Craig E. Smith, N. Warren, PA.
\$70 In honour of our friend Sam Friedberg who had a wonderful time on his visit to Israel — Raymond and Shula Drilling, Monticello, NY.
\$60 In memory of my father-in-law, Yacov Miron, who passed away recently in Bucarest, Romania — B.S. de Vries, Stockholm, Sweden.
\$30 In memory of my father's Yahrzeit on 25th Shevat — Esther Sabbah, Coral Gables, FL.

\$200 Anonymous, Tel Aviv; Anonymous, Haiti; with heartfelt congratulations to our dear mother and grandmother Gerda on her 70th birthday — from Hannah and Herbert, Chawah and Chaim and Orith, Dror and Oded.

\$20 James and Katherine Rutledge, Oregon City, OR.
\$100 D. Segel, Beersheva; in memory of my beloved husband and all our dear ones — Valerie Wechsler, Galveston, TX; Anonymous, Bat Yam; Anonymous, Ramatna.

\$10 In loving memory of Jennie Jacobs and Felice Sanger — Steve Jacobs, Philadelphia, PA.; Mary Jane Smith, N. Warren, PA.

\$175 Anonymous, Ramat Gan.
\$180 J. Levene, Eilat.

\$150 To Elia Amir on her Jubilee Birthday — Stella and Yona, Haifa; Thursday Night Bridge Club; Anonymous.

\$140 Rolf Radlauer, Anonymous, Jerusalem.
\$110 In honour of our wedding day — Mr. & Mrs. H.L. Amweg, The Hague, Holland.

\$110 Anonymous, Jerusalem.
\$110 In memory of my grandmother, Pessie Solomon — Raymond Solomon, Netanya.

The 32nd drive of *The Jerusalem Post's* Toy Fund has surpassed our hopes to such an extent that we are preparing new plans to help children who are wards of the state. These are children destined to spend their young lives with foster parents.

We have only just begun to formulate this plan, which we hope to be able to announce shortly. In the meantime, now that things are a bit quiet at our fund-raising office, we are offering our remaining Toy Fund tops for sale. We still have 1,000 left and will be selling them for \$5 or \$10.

Lahis resigns his Agency Post

By JUDY SIEGEL

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Jewish Agency Director-General Shmuel Lahis resigned yesterday, maintaining that he had failed to get backing from Agency Chairman Arye Dulzin in his fight to get something done about emigration.

The 51-year-old lawyer, who has worked for the Agency for almost 20 years and has served since 1978 as director-general, said he was disappointed by what he saw as the failure of Dulzin and other agency officials to back him up after controversy arose over his recent report on emigration.

In a letter of resignation sent to Dulzin two weeks ago, Lahis said the Executive had repeatedly affirmed that the Agency doesn't deal with the problem of emigration, but only with handling those emigrants who apply for return. The Executive also reiterated that Lahis was not sent by the agency to make his study of emigration a few months ago, but rather by Deputy Prime Minister Simcha Ehrlich.

The report, which suggested that 300,000 to 500,000 emigrants are living in the U.S. was widely attacked by Knesset members, by ministers and within the agency itself. Lahis then vowed to launch a "one-man war" against emigration, which he depicted as a "steady bleeding" from the body of the State of Israel.

HOME NEWS

Most cars are not roadworthy

TEL AVIV. — Believe it or not — 65 per cent of the country's motor vehicles shouldn't be on the road — or at least not in their present state of repair. The opinion is voiced by Uri Gershtov, an Israeli Road safety researcher.

Gershtov's statistics are based on the conclusions of three Transport Ministry teams of repairmen, who checked cars free of charge recently.

It emerged that many of the flawed cars had only recently undergone their regular annual tests. Others were fresh out of garages where they had had tune-ups and maintenance jobs done.

Perhaps Gershtov's evaluation needs further verification. It cannot, however, be far off its mark. All experts agree that there has been a general decline in car maintenance levels. In addition, drivers are holding on to their cars longer and the number of vintage cars is steadily increasing. Most drivers are simply no longer able to afford the maintenance standards suggested by the manufacturers of the automobiles they own.

The impact of older cars and poor maintenance on the accident rate is obvious. Other contributing factors are our poorly planned, marked and illuminated junctions. Then there are Jaywalkers and bicycle riders

riding their contraptions on dark rainy nights without lights or reflectors, and to make matters even worse, often wearing dark clothing. There are also the "dreadnoughts" — giant trucks parked near corners where you would least expect them — often on the wrong side of the road and invariably without lights.

Junctions leading off and onto highways are often poorly planned, insufficiently illuminated and direction shields are rare.

How about letting people buy one tax-free car every six years — or at least removing the duty from spare parts? How about supervising garages more efficiently and tightening annual check-up regulations?

How about toll roads? This would help cover road maintenance costs. And last and anything but least — how about improving our railroad network and subsidizing passenger traffic to keep more cars off the road?

None of these ideas are new or original, but implementing some of them will further improve safety on our roads.



Theodoros, former head of the Greek Orthodox Church in Jordan, was elected last week as Patriarch of Jerusalem by the 16-member Holy Synod in Jerusalem. He replaces Benedictos I, who died last December after 23 years as Patriarch of Jerusalem. His flock numbers 120,000 Greek Orthodox believers in Jordan and 40,000 in Israel and the West Bank. The patriarchate's position of power stems from its custodianship of over 100 shrines, including some of the holiest sites in Christianity.

Council calls attention to Syrian Jewry

TEL AVIV. — The Public Council to Save Jews from Arab Lands, decided last week to request a meeting with Prime Minister Menachem Begin to explain the necessity of publicizing the plight of the 5,000 Jews held hostage in Syria. Mordechai Ben-Porat, chairman of the Council, explained that Israeli censorship "doesn't let us open our mouth" for fear of endangering Syrian Jews.

As an example, he cited the government's decision to ban distribution of booklets on Syrian Jewry, prepared by the Council for Human Rights Day in December. As a result, he said, the demonstrations and other protest activities had to be cancelled.

Special concern was expressed for a family of seven imprisoned for attempting to flee Syria.

(The other refugees, page 14.)

Classical music back — uninterrupted

By JUDY SIEGEL

Classical music lovers in Israel rejoiced on Thursday morning, when the radio's First Programme resumed regular broadcasts after four weeks of irregular programming.

Broadcasting Authority management had combined the highbrow First Programme with the popular talk-and-music Second Programme because of a dispute with radio technicians over working conditions and overtime. During the month, music fans were subjected to frequent commercials sandwiched among classical music offerings, which were cut in length.

Newspapers and the Broadcasting Authority itself received

hundreds of letters of protest from music fans, who objected to the cut-back of the First Programme and suggested that the pop music station, the Third Programme, be made to suffer instead.

But an agreement between management and technicians finally brought the radio back to normal.

Chair of journalism

TEL AVIV. — The Dr. Azriel Carlebach Chair of Journalism has been dedicated at Tel Aviv University.

The chair, named after the late founding editor of *Ma'ariv*, will function as a forum between journalists and academics.

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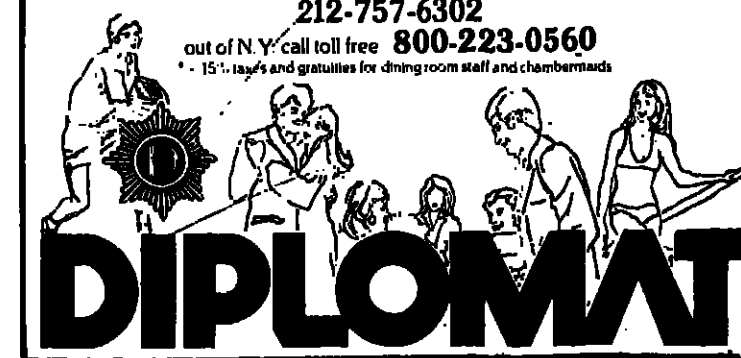
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11 DAYS 9 Nights JUNE 11-21 \$1105-\$1370 plus Registration Fee

15 DAYS 13 Nights JUNE 10-24 \$1252-\$1587 plus Registration Fee

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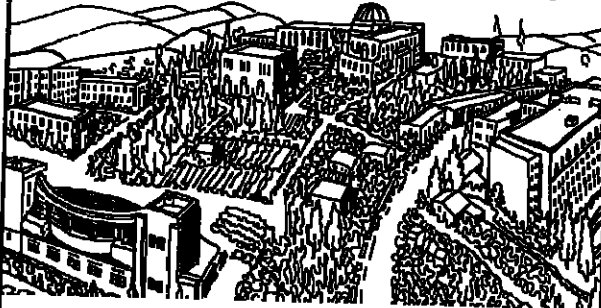
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Yadin leaving political life

By SARAH HONIG
and MARK SEGAL

TEL AVIV. — Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin announced last week that he was bowing out of politics and that his party — the Democratic Movement — will be going out of existence.

"I don't regard it as a personal tragedy that I failed in politics because of naive and refusing to work by others' rules. After all, I'm not a professional politician. I have somewhere to go, and I'll resume my archeological work at the Hebrew University with a clear conscience," he declared on Israel Television.

Yadin decided to quit politics "because I discovered I'm not an electoral asset."

He wished to reassure the 200,000 DM voters from 1977 that he had kept the faith with them, and that they had not wasted their ballots.

"We had historic achievements, but we failed as a party, and I am ready to take the blame for being too naive. We showed that Israeli democracy does work," he said.

Regrettably, the electorate had not accorded him sufficient votes to achieve his original aims, he said. Yadin denied that he had destroyed the dream of a third political force between the Likud and Labour, declaring "You wait and see, another one is on the way."

He blamed the present electoral system for allowing tiny factions to dictate policies, but dodged the reason for his failure to press for electoral reform.

Defending the Begin government "as being much better than its predecessor," Yadin claimed that his party had enabled Menachem Begin to achieve peace in the face of opposition from the majority of

the Likud. "The Likud can claim what it wants now, but we gave him his majority," he said.

He put the burden for the DMC's failure on MK Amnon Rubinstein's Shinui faction. Shinui was one of the organizations originally participating in the establishment of DMC, and later left it.

For Yadin the dramatic appearance on Israel Television last night had a special poignancy. For it was four years ago on the very same programme that he first announced his entry into the political arena, and his decision to team up with Shinui and form the DMC.

Yadin has now finally quit politics altogether, as will be MK Binyamin Halevi. "He wants to go home," a Yadin aide said last week. While in office, Yadin suffered a heart attack and a blood circulatory ailment, and he began walking with a cane because of back complications.

Of the three surviving DM MKs, the only one with a promising political future is former justice minister Shmuel Tamir, who is seen as likely to join the Likud.



Professor Yadin

Tamir has been saying in recent days that he still has not made up his mind, but sources close to him say that he will soon enter the Likud. His latest statements are seen as attempts to either up the ante he expects from his new political partners, or leave Yadin a graceful way out before he makes his own political intentions clear.

Likud sources expect that, initially at least, Tamir and his former associate in the DM and the Free Centre, MK Akiva Nof will form a separate Likud faction, although at a future date they may re-enter Herut, from which both had initially come. Nof is already in the Likud, having joined it some two months back.

Another DM member with open political options is Welfare Minister Yisrael Katz, who is not an MK. Katz is reportedly negotiating his entry into the political union which former foreign minister Moshe Dayan is believed to be forming with Rafi. For Katz, like Dayan, this would be a return to his political origins, as he was a member of the original Rafi in the 1960s.

Yadin, 63, a hero of the War of Independence and the IDF's second chief of staff, left a successful academic career as an internationally-renowned archeologist to enter politics four years ago.

Although he made an immediate appeal to large numbers of disillusioned voters, many of those who voted for his Democratic Movement for Change in 1977 have long felt he let them down by refusing to leave the floundering coalition.

The DMC eventually split, and the surviving DM, headed by Yadin, entered the present Knesset with 15 seats.

The two reluctant generals

Public Faces
Mark Segal

THREE OF OUR most prominent ex-generals — Moshe Dayan, Yitzhak Rabin and Ezer Weizman — met for lunch at their favourite Tel Aviv eating-place last week. It's certain that they enjoyed the spiced Balkan food at the Olympia, and probable that they relished even more the heartburn their meeting would cause in the higher echelons of both major political parties.

Talk of a possible Weizman-Rabin alliance has been in the wind for some time, since Eliezer Zurablin tried to engineer a *sulha* between the two some months ago. Since then, the Dahaf adman's ties with our former defence minister have loosened; he has taken part of the Alignment election account, and Weizman has given up his desk at the former's Tel Aviv advertising agency.

But Weizman is not yet ready to move. He recently told friends that he's got no intention now of jumping into the political fray. "Now" seems to be the operative word for he's busy at present making money on a variety of projects, ranging from a new book, due to be released by Bantam with great fanfare at April's Jerusalem International Book Fair, to considering a lucrative offer from a major U.S. TV network. The latter, on which Ezer has been consulting with Wall Street lawyer Leon Charney, is for a film of the life-story of our dashing ex-pilot, perhaps with Weizman playing the role himself.

THE INFORMATION chief of the Likud, Gideon Gadot, was rubbing his hands in anticipation of the meeting of the Socialist International Bureau, scheduled for two weeks before the elections. He felt that the presence here of PLO sympathizer Bruno Kreisky at the side of his host, Shimon Peres, would be good election propaganda for the Likud.

But both the Austrian chancellor and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany let it be known right away that they will not be able to attend the meeting. Some cynics here remarked that apparently they'll be too busy selling arms to the Arabs.

MEANWHILE back at the Likud, some leading lights have been making cooling noises in an attempt to bring the wayward flier home to roost. Within the past 10 days, the "come home, all is forgiven" theme has been sounded by Housing and Absorption Minister David Levy, Deputy Premier Shmuel Eshkol, and Industry, Trade and Tourism Minister Gideon Patt. Even Premier Menachem Begin is now said to be interested in accepting his predecessor at the Defence Ministry back into the Herut ranks.

AS FOR RABIN, the ex-premier may be down but he's still not entirely out of the Labour Party picture. Some of his supporters, like Dimona mayor Jacques Amir MK are still insisting that the ex-premier would fit better in the Defence Ministry than Shimon Peres' choice, party secretary Haim Bar-Lev.

BOTH SIDES continue to court Rockefeller, who will soon turn 65 and will step down in April from the bank management. He pledged to continue using his high-level personal contacts in the Arab world to advance the cause of peace, which he called "one of our highest aims," and noticed the "tremendous changes and positive developments" in Jerusalem since he first visited the city in 1929 as a young boy with his parents.

ISRAEL DOES have a friend at Chase Manhattan. At least Teddy Kollek does, judging by the warm praise lavished on the Jerusalem mayor by David Rockefeller. For the past ten years, the famed banker and outgoing Chase Manhattan chairman has closed his annual Middle East tour at dinner with Teddy; this time he presented his host with a huge crystal American eagle.

ISSUES

Court urges minister to think again about takeover of Arab power company

By ARYE WOLMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The High Court of Justice ruled last week that the government is not entitled to take over the concession for providing electric power in the West Bank from the Arab-owned Jerusalem District Electricity Company. However, the justices upheld the Israeli Government's right to take over the utility's concession within the boundaries of Jerusalem.

By requisitioning the company's generating facilities in Jerusalem, Israel would eventually force it to buy all the electricity it needs for its West Bank customers from the state-owned Israel Electric Corporation.

The director-general of the Energy Ministry, David Hagool, told *The Jerusalem Post*, last week that, following the High Court ruling, his ministry would in all probability go ahead and take over the company's Jerusalem-facilities: (It currently has 10 functioning generators in its plant in the north-east Jerusalem suburb of Shu'afat, with another four waiting to be installed. There are another five generators belonging to the company in the West Bank towns of Ramallah, Jericho and Bethlehem; but these are only used in emergencies.)

Earlier, an Energy Ministry spokesman said that the ministry saw "no legal obstacle to the requisitioning of all the company's facilities in the area of Israeli sovereignty."

In handing down their ruling on the electricity company's appeal against the government's decision to take it over, the three justices told Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i to think again before he went ahead with any plan to requisition the Shu'afat plant. They renewed an injunction preventing any such takeover until 15 days after the government announces its intentions — this to allow a further court appeal by the company.

Anwar Nusseibeh, the former Jordanian defence minister who heads the company, said last week: "We will never accept the position of being merely distributors of electricity for the Israeli government. We consider East Jerusalem to be occupied territory like the West Bank."

He said he hoped to persuade either the government or the High Court to abort the plans to take over the Jerusalem part of the company's concession area. But, he said, if he fails, "there are other measures we can take and other methods we can use to stop a takeover."

The workers in the Shu'afat plant have already declared "they will refuse to cooperate with any non-Arab management."

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek called on the Energy Ministry last week to abandon its plans to requisition the company's generating plant. A refusal to do so would lead to a long protracted legal and political battle which would raise tensions between Jerusalem's Jewish and Arab inhabitants, he said.



Anwar Nusseibeh... "There are other measures we can take."

Kollek added that the company's 43,000 customers who live in Jerusalem are currently being provided with an efficient service and a government take-over would only cause disruptions.

Energy Ministry officials, however, continued to insist that they wished to take over the company solely to improve its efficiency, and not for political considerations.

An editorial in *The Jerusalem Post* said that the court rattled the takeover within the limits of the city of Jerusalem, which according to national law is Israeli territory, but not in the West Bank, which — as the court had ruled more than once before, but the government keeps forgetting — is "occupied territory, legally speaking, and thus subject to the Hague Rules."

Such a division, though inevitable, would plainly be inconvenient, for it would leave few installations available to service customers outside city limits. The court, in its Solomonian judgment, therefore urged the government to reconsider the intended takeover. If the government stuck to its guns, an appeal by the company would be allowed.

After suffering so stinging a defeat, a normal government would have been glad to oblige, and to reach a belated compromise. But evidently not this government, with the Liberal Minister Yitzhak Moda'i in the energy driver's seat. It now has title to the Jerusalem installations, and it is claiming victory, no less. Therefore, it will not relent.

Would that it had refused to relent in somewhat better causes.

Tax on Sinai compensation

Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV. — A ministerial committee last week decided to impose income tax on the compensation to be paid to farmers who will have to evacuate Northern Sinai.

According to an unofficial estimate, the decision will save the government some IS200m. Each of the 350 families had expected to receive IS1.5m. to IS2.2m., Shaul Sela of Moshav Sadot told *The Jerusalem Post* last week. The farmers plan to appeal the decision.

Government spokesmen said the decision taken last week by Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, Finance Minister Yoram Aridor and Justice Minister Moshe Nissim means the settlers will pay income tax on compensation for loss of work. At present the settlers do little agricultural work. Instead, they are looking for new farms, *The Jerusalem Post* was told.

homes, hot-houses and irrigation systems to determine the exact amount due to them. They will also compensate the settlers for the money they invested in building packaging houses and other communal structures — but not for the government's share in building them.

Meanwhile, the Sinai settlement farmers have warned they may not be able to evacuate the area in time for the final Israeli withdrawal due in April 1982.

Their leader, Yitzhak Regev, told reporters that the farms could be evacuated on time only if equipment is left behind and the farmers moved "to hotels or prisons."

His associate, Shaul Sela of Sadot, said the settlers would move only during the school summer recess so as not to disturb the children's studies. If they cannot leave by this summer, they want the evacuation postponed by a year.

U.S. will fight UN moves to oust Israel

Jerusalem Post Correspondent
"The U.S. will oppose in the firmest and most vigorous ways any move to expel Israel from any international body and most explicitly from the UN," State Department spokesman William Dyess said last week.

The State Department announcement was seen as a response to a resolution adopted recently at the non-aligned nations' conference in

New Delhi which called for withdrawal of recognition of Israel's credentials at the UN General Assembly and at other international bodies.

Moyinhan told *The New York Post* that the Senate resolution would have the U.S. "automatically withhold its appropriation" from any UN body that ousts the Israelis. "We should make this clear from the outset — there won't be a nickel!" he declared.

Aridor 'cleared' in prime-time row

Jerusalem Post Staff
After more than five hours of debate, a majority of the Broadcasting Authority's board of directors decided that Finance Minister Yoram Aridor's use of Clause 46 of the Broadcasting Authority Law recently to appear on prime-time television to explain his economic policy "did not endanger the independence" of the authority.

The majority of the board concurred, however, with an earlier announcement by Education and Culture Minister Ze'evulun Hammer that use of the clause by ministers must not become a regular practice.

The board added that radio and television journalists must be extremely careful to be objective and balanced in their reporting, especially during an election campaign.

Authority director-general Yosef Lapid concluded that he hopes "we won't hear of Clause 46 in the foreseeable future." He added that if the government again requests prime time to make an announcement on TV, the authority will demand that it be put in writing unless it is a true emergency.

The Knesset presidium last week refused to recognize the urgency of 10 requests for a debate on Aridor's economic statement on TV.

Six of the requests were hostile to Aridor, and four criticized the management and staff at Television House.

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Not since Entebbe has Ben-Gurion Airport witnessed an arrival like that of Yosef Mendelevich, whose sudden release from a Soviet prison camp last week sent a wave of emotion through Israel. Reporter SARAH HONIG was among the thousands gathered to welcome him. She tells here of Mendelevich the man, of the ideals which inspired him during his 10-year ordeal, and suggests why the reception was so tumultuous.

The end of an ordeal

JUST BEFORE he boarded the El Al plane from Vienna to Israel on Wednesday of last week, freed Prisoner of Zion Yosef Mendelevich happened to meet a group of Soviet Jews whose destination was America, not Israel.

The more than 10 years which he spent in Soviet prisons and forced labour camps did not entirely isolate Mendelevich from events in the outside world. He was not oblivious to the fact that despite his struggle and that of his friends, most Soviet Jews today do not share his own Zionist fervour and prefer to immigrate to places other than Israel. Tired though he was, and still under the psychological shock of the sudden switch from prison life in the morning to freedom and the arrival in Austria only several hours later, Mendelevich could not resist delivering a little speech to those embarking on a different route from his.

In Russian, he told them how far over a decade his one dream was to walk to the Western Wall — to arrive at it on foot, like a pilgrim. How he dreamed of each step and constructed in his mind's eye the hike from the airport to the Jerusalem he had never seen.

"But I am so disappointed now to see that you are not contemplating a return to our beloved homeland. We spent many long and harsh years of captivity, so that Jews would be free to go to Israel. And it is disappointing to see you re-enact the great Jewish tragedy of seeking your fortunes in the lands of foreigners."

He told his rapt audience that he was well aware of the economic problems facing Israel. "But that is our own land and it is the only place on this globe in which the Jew can be himself and breathe the air of freedom."

The drop-outs listened and were touched. Eye-witnesses report that some were moved to tears. Rousing applause followed. What is not clear, however, is just how many, if any at all, changed their destinations and decided to follow Mendelevich to the land of his dreams.

THIS BRIEF ENCOUNTER in Vienna between two radically different representatives of Soviet Jewry perhaps best illustrates the problems that have come to the surface in the last decade as the dramatic saga of Soviet Jewish emigration has unfolded. Many of those who had been raised in "the socialist paradise" had been influenced by its inherent materialism and are hungry for the good life in America.

But the slight crack in the Iron Curtain which allowed them to leave had been pushed open by a small group of Zionist activists who, when their battle is done, arrive in Israel brimming over with idealism and fervent dreams of an ancient homeland — much like Hovevei Zion, the Lovers of Zion, a century ago.

Not all of the Jews who leave Russia these days remember who made the exodus possible and who paid for it with some of the best

years of their lives. One of the boldest and most dramatic acts on behalf of Jewish emigration to Israel came in 1970 when a desperate group gathered in Leningrad in order to steal a Soviet plane and fly it to freedom. The scheme failed. But it nevertheless succeeded in attracting international attention to the plight of Soviet Jews.

The Leningrad trial which followed is today regarded as a turning point in the history of Soviet Jewry.

YOSEF MENDELEVICH was a key member of the group and the last of the Jewish conspirators to be freed. He, along with the leader, Eduard Kuznetsov, had worded the last testament left by the group before they set out on their desperate operation. Ninemembers of the group affixed their signatures to it, and Mendelevich's leads the rest.

Excerpts from this unique document offer some of the earliest clues to what motivates a man like Mendelevich. "With monstrous hypocrisy the Soviet authorities have denied our right to be repatriated in our homeland... all claims of the Communist government to have solved the 'Jewish question' are false. They should finally realize that it is not in their power to decide the fate of the Jewish people. Our action is meant to draw attention to these eternal truths and to the desperately tragic situation of the Jews in the USSR... We are moved by a desire to live in our homeland and to share in its destiny," said the document.

A postscript added: "Our actions are not dangerous to others. By the time the plane is in the air, we shall be the only ones aboard."

For his part in the operation that never took place, Mendelevich was sentenced to 12 years at hard labour. The mystery is why he ended up serving the longest sentence of all.

The two ring-leaders, Kuznetsov and pilot Mark Dymshitz, were sent to jail for 15 years, but came to Israel with five other members of the group as part of a spy swap with the Americans in 1979. Only Mendelevich and two non-Jews — Alexei Murzhenko and Yuri Fedorov — were left behind bars.

No one could explain why, and neither could Mendelevich, when he arrived here Wednesday night.

THE BEN-GURION Airport terminal building had seen tumultuous welcomes before, particularly in 1979, when the other Leningrad prisoners were released and came here on the eve of Israel's 31st Independence Day. But the scenes of ecstasy, the dancing, the Hassidic chants, the singing and the tears, made the Mendelevich homecoming unique.

Veteran aliyah activists pointed to the fact that he was, after all, unique in the Leningrad group. He had become very devout and had become a symbol for many Bnei Akiva youngsters and religious school pupils. They flocked to the airport from all around the country

to greet him with banners, flowers and song.

Two of Mendelevich's sisters, the tireless Rivka Drori and Eva Listin, reside in the West Bank. Rivka lives in Alon Shvut, where Mendelevich spent his first night in Israel, and Eva in Elkana. Many settlers from Judea and Samaria, the sisters' collaborators in their struggle to free Yosef, were with the two to share in the warm and spontaneous celebration.

"He was always the most Jewish among us. He was the Jewish 'soul' of our group and perhaps the rabbi of Soviet prisoners," said one of the other Leningrad defendants; all were also on hand for a tearful reunion.

His religious fervour may have helped Mendelevich live through his ten-year ordeal, but it also complicated his survival in prison. He ignored even the pleas of his friends to compromise his faith in order to live, insisting on strict observance of the laws of kashrut. That meant that he would get even fewer calories than other undernourished and overworked inmates. In over ten years, he had not eaten cooked food, subsisting on dry bread and water.

Several times he had been caught and severely punished for running underground Hebrew-language classes in prison camps.

He introduced many prisoners of Zion to Hebrew and was the teacher of more advanced courses in labour camps as well. He had spent the last three and a half months in a hunger strike because wardens had confiscated the books he used to teach Hebrew. "He is the stuff that heroes are made of," said the former prisoners who came to welcome him last week.

But what kept this slight, gaunt and very pale 34-year-old man going? "It is not faith alone," he once wrote his sisters. "Faith is a gift from Heaven, but it is the test of faith under critical situations which counts."

In another letter he apologized to all those who had written him but who had received no reply because he was denied their mail. "I am sorry for having made people toil in vain. But all the goodness of their deeds accumulates somewhere and such a vast store of good deeds is bound to help someone, somewhere, some day. Do not regret your wasted efforts."

MENDELEVICH made it a point to follow events in Israel as closely as he could and he formed opinions as well. Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, for instance, brought him to warn that Israel must not "lose sight of the fact that there is no one in the world on whom we Jews can rely and on whom we must maintain our morale and self-respect. If we follow the road of concession, we will find that it is interminable... And what about Jerusalem? I fear surprises are being prepared for us."

Indeed, Jerusalem occupied much of his thought in prison. "It is not always possible for me to turn my face towards our Holy City



Policemen clear a way for Yosef Mendelevich through the enthusiastic welcoming crowd at Ben-Gurion Airport last Wednesday night.



Yosef Mendelevich right is congratulated by Shilo Gal, chairman of the Gush Etzion regional council, as he is made an honorary citizen of Gush Etzion. Ruth Bar-On of the Council for Soviet Jewry looks on. The ceremony took place at Alon Shvut on Friday. (Zoom 71)

when I pray," he wrote last year in a letter smuggled from his camp. "It is not even always possible for me to pray near an open window. But without fail I always have Mount Moriah on my mind, and how sweet is the prayer which brings tears to one's eyes."

Pressed flowers he once received in a letter from Israel also turned his thoughts to Jerusalem. "I could smell the very soil of the homeland though the petals were all dry," he wrote. "Wild stirrings of joy surged through me and moved me to cry without shedding tears, and to scream without uttering a sound. I believe the energy unleashed in me could have heated many a solar energy device on the roofs of Jerusalem."

DID HE NOT regret having lost his youth in labour camps and special punishment cells? On arrival here, he said that he feels lucky and the letters he wrote from prison sometimes indicate that his ideas of freedom and imprisonment do not conform to convention. On his 26th birthday he explained that "wherever a man is — even in prison — life goes on, as long as one distinguishes between good and evil. One cannot be considered a prisoner or a slave, but a master of his soul whom no one can crush."

Exactly one year ago, he wrote that he often offers prayers of thanksgiving both "for the good and bad which befall me. A man must regard himself as a chance creation,

whose life and death are inconsequential in themselves. Instead it is important that one lives up to the Commandments of Judaism, because the life of the nation is not incidental and its value is beyond estimate."

On Wednesday night, when Mendelevich told his well-wishers that he is "happy beyond description," girls from the religious school at Kfar Pines shrieked as their more frivolous counterparts do when they hear a pop star. They wept unabashedly when he declared that "by reaching Israel I have reached a state of total satisfaction. All my dreams have come true."

"Can you see now why we came to welcome him?" one flushed 14-year-old girl told me. "He is our hero. He is a latter-day example of the proud Jew who would rather fight and die than give up his faith. He is an example to us."

And when the speeches were over the girls and other well-wishers wished each other *mazal tov*, just as one does at a wedding or any other joyous occasion.

On the next day aliyah activists all over Israel, even personnel at the Public Council for Soviet Jewry, still started every conversation with a *mazal tov*.

"When a son returns to his family it's like a new child has been born, and so a *mazal tov* is due because Yosef is here," someone at the council explained.

COMMENTARY

Threat from the skies

Military Correspondent Hirsh Goodman says that Israel will be gravely threatened if the U.S. agrees to upgrade the offensive capability of the F-15 fighters. He argues that the advanced weaponry is not needed for Saudi defence, and points to the threats of a 'holy war' against Israel which have emanated from the leaders in Riyadh.

AMERICA'S apparent willingness to upgrade the offensive capability of the 60 F-15 fighters destined for Saudi Arabia is not only counter to every promise made both to Israel and Congress when the deal was originally approved two years ago, but could have dire tactical and strategic implications for Israel.

The F-15 was designed and built as an air-superiority fighter for the U.S. Air Force. It has a remarkable interception capability, but, in its original form, a low-grade potential for air-to-ground attack. It was for this reason that Israel had difficulty blocking the original sale.

The Americans argued at the time, quite cogently, that Saudi Arabia needed the ability to protect its oil wealth and territorial integrity from air attack. In a letter to Senator John Sparkman in May 1978, former U.S. Secretary of Defence Harold Brown wrote that, "The F-15s requested (by Saudi Arabia) would be relatively ineffective in an offensive mode. From the standpoint of military planning it would make no sense whatsoever for Saudi Arabia to acquire an aircraft with the characteristics of the F-15 for using it as a ground-attack aircraft. I am confident that the Saudis have no such intention."

In an effort to placate Sparkman, who was then chairman of the Senate Foreign-Relations Committee, Brown gave an assurance that the planes would not be equipped with special features that could give it additional range.

"Specifically," he wrote, "the planes will not have conformal fuel tanks... (nor) has Saudi Arabia requested that the plane be outfitted with Ejection Seats (MER 300) which would allow the plane to car-

ry a substantial bomb load... The U.S. will not furnish such MERs."

Brown expressed his confidence that Saudi Arabia could be taken at its word. It wanted a plane that "would help (it) deter and defend against those nations that are hostile to its role as a leading moderate Arab state."

SO MUCH for Brown's confidence, and so much for Brown's written pledge. The Saudis have requested, and the U.S. Administration appears to be ready to grant, precisely those systems that worried the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The conformal fuel tanks in question will not only increase the F-15's range by some 90 per cent, allowing them to reach Israel from anywhere in Saudi Arabia and return, but also to enter into air combat without having to jettison fuel load.

Moreover, the MER 200 bomb racks increase the planes' bomb load from three to eight tons of air-to-ground ordnance, the delivery of which on virtually any Israeli target would be devastating.

In short, if the U.S. agrees to the Saudi demand, the result will be 60 virtually unstoppable weapons in the hands of a nation which has twice in the past six months called for a jihad (holy war) against Israel.

It would not have been difficult for the U.S. to reject the Saudi demand. Neither the conformal tanks nor the MER racks are used by the U.S. Air Force. Nor are they in current production. At worst, the Saudi request could have been delayed by the administration on those grounds.

SAUDI ARABIA'S claim that the upgrading of the plane's offensive

role is necessary in the light of recent events in the Gulf region cannot be taken seriously. Saudi Arabia needs to defend its integrity against Iraq and Iran, not conquer or attack either of these countries. And the interceptor aircraft ordered by it were expressly intended for this defensive purpose.

Nor should the U.S. have given credibility to the Saudi threat to seek weapons elsewhere if the U.S. refused the demands. Firstly, there is no other market for these specific weapons, and secondly, Saudi Arabia is seeking arms elsewhere anyway. It has registered an interest in 200 Tornado fighters (manufactured by a European consortium) and has bought weapons from virtually every arms-producing market in the West.

Other weapons purchased over the past two years by the Saudis from sources other than the U.S. include almost 30 advanced naval vessels from Britain; 1,100 tanks and assorted armoured vehicles from France, Italy and Britain; Crotale and other anti-aircraft systems from France and Sweden. And, most recently, a Saudi request to purchase 200 Leopard MK 11 battle tanks from Germany for over \$700m.

From the Israeli standpoint, a decision to upgrade the Saudi F-15s — the most sophisticated aircraft in the world — would be grave indeed.

Israel has 50 of them (with an option for 10 more), which are intended as Israel's front-line aerial defence against aggression from one or a combination of the confrontation states.

And while the Saudi aircraft were considered defensive in nature, they were not considered by military

planners here to be emphatically on the negative side of the military balance.

Now, given both Saudi Arabia's immoderate political stand, emphasized by the increasingly heard threat to launch a holy war, and the transformation of the planes from a defensive to a purely offensive capability, Israel must consider these aircraft potentially hostile.

Given that Israel has 65 per cent of its population and 75 per cent of its industrial infrastructure concentrated in the narrow coastal plain in and around the Greater Tel Aviv area, it is highly vulnerable from the air, and this threat will have to be offset.

Since Israel has reached a point of saturation in its military spending and the U.S. aid package is shrinking in real terms, it is logical to assume that the new threat will have to be met not by accelerating an arms race which is beyond Israel's means, but by a basic change in the strategic concept. Which will mean a greater reliance on the pre-emptive strike as a means of negating the enemy's offensive capability.

In other words, by allowing sophisticated weapons to flow into Arab confrontation states, the U.S. and the Europeans, who have yet to deny an arms request from Saudi Arabia, are pushing the region closer to war.

If Israel adopts a pre-emptive strategic concept, the potential for diplomatic action in a tense situa-

tion will be considerably diminished. Once a threat is discerned — particularly in this age of supersonic weapons capable of massive destruction — military action will have to be taken, a process which will considerably increase the chances of war in the region.

INSTABILITY in the Middle East, particularly among countries which the U.S. considers its allies, is clearly not an American or European strategic interest. But this fact seems to be lost on the new U.S. administration. A point will be reached, with the unchecked proliferation of weapons here, when war will become inevitable.

Israel would be extremely unwise to agree to a "deal" with the U.S. in exchange for the upgrading of the Saudi F-15s. It would be folly to legitimize the supply of the most advanced offensive weapons to one of Israel's most vociferous enemies for short-term gain — which would, in the final analysis, only increase Israel's dependence on the U.S.

Israel can muster a strong moral and geo-strategic case against the supply of these weapons to Saudi Arabia. If it explained its case effectively, it would undoubtedly be able to build up enough pressure in the U.S. to block the sale.

There are many good reasons for the Americans to supply Saudi Arabia with the means to defend itself. But it is quite another question to supply the implements that will make a jihad possible.

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FEBRUARY 1981

Orient Express

Diplomatic Correspondent

AT THE BEGINNING of this month nine Members of Parliament from both sides of the House temporarily suspended their partisan differences and, united in a common sentiment — sympathy for the Palestinians — went together on a fact-finding mission to the Middle East.

Fact-finding travels have become a trend among British parliamentarians, and the Middle East appears to be a much favoured resort in this field. How much fact-finding actually results from these trips is another matter, and is questionable. When David Steel, in conformity with this fashion, led a group of Liberals on a Middle East tour last year, the facts he discovered — at least judging from his extensive report — could have easily been garnered from the media here. The conclusions he arrived at did not shed a new light on the situation nor show a fresh approach to the problems of the Middle East on his part. The visit of the three Labour MPs to Afghanistan last month embarrassed their party and damaged their own reputations.

The latest group of MP Middle East tourists was composed of the following: Anthony Marlow, Peter Temple-Morris, Peter Bottomley, Richard Alexander and Nicholas Winterton (Conservatives) and Ernie Ross, Frank Hooley, Robert Parry and R. McTaggart (Labour).

They went to Lebanon, where they were feted by Yasser Arafat, then on to Syria, to gather some facts there, and from there to Jordan. Here they ran into Sir Ian Gilmour who was doing his own Middle East circuit. Since government policy still prohibits the Foreign Secretary and his Deputy (but no longer, it seems, top FO officials) from meeting PLO leaders,

Sir Ian must have found the meeting with his colleagues opportune. It is not far-fetched to suppose that messages were passed between Sir Ian and Arafat via the Conservative MPs.

One of the businesses that Sir Ian Gilmour had on his agenda in Amman was the sale of 275 Chieftain tanks to Jordan, to compensate King Hussein for the tanks the Americans are withholding. No doubt the government's decision to do so will be popular with British arms manufacturers, particularly now, when every contract which would ensure that the wheels of industry are kept rolling is welcome. But it can hardly serve to strengthen Britain's credibility with anybody who has any memory at all. In 1973 at the height of the Yom Kippur War Britain refused to sell Israel spare parts and ammunition for her British-made tanks, and has since been following a vague policy of examining each request for arms purchase from the Middle East on its merits, a policy which has been interpreted by the authorities in a way that has not favoured Israel's interests.

Apart from the boon to Britain's tank manufacturers, the transaction is also meant to have wider political implications. It can be guessed that the Deputy Foreign Secretary's announcement in Amman about the tank sale was accompanied by broad hints to the Jordanian king that the European Middle East initiative had more substance to it than he might have supposed.

With this good tidings proclaimed, the nine MPs crossed the Jordan to the West Bank — the last stop on their itinerary. It was reported in the Israeli press that when greeted by an Israeli official with "welcome to Israel," Ernie Ross retorted: "We've not come to Israel. We are visiting Palestine."

Japan on PLO

Following Japan's agreement to allow the PLO to open an office in Tokyo, the Zionist Federation sought a meeting with the Japanese Ambassador in London, Naraiichi Fujimura, in order to express protest against the move.

In agreeing to the meeting — albeit with his number two man, the Minister Shozo Kadota — the Ambassador re-stated his government's position on the PLO: "The Government of Japan considers that the PLO represents the Palestinian people but has never recognised the PLO as 'sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people'."

Japan has friendly if somewhat distant relations with Israel, and its approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict is based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338, as the Ambassador stressed in his letter to Sidney Shalom. But it has to be remembered that Japan, with its vast industry and lack of natural resources, is heavily dependent on Arab oil and hence vulnerable to Arab pressure.

ZF fees up

The Zionist Federation have increased affiliation fees of members of affiliated organisations to £5.00 a year.

The ZF national executive has accepted unanimously this proposal by Simon Reiss, honorary treasurer. The resolution said "members of all affiliated organisations be requested to pay £5.00 per annum to the ZF and that all such affiliated organisations be entitled to receive grants, the extent of which is to be determined by an impartial committee, in relation to their activities and membership."

The increase was part of the ZF's effort to establish a sound financial basis for its activities. Per capita fees for members of affiliated organisations were in the past up to £1.00 a year. Annual fees for those who subscribe directly to the ZF is at least £10.00 per year.



The Israel Ambassador to the United Nations, Yehuda Blum (second from left), was the guest of honour at a meeting of the Zionist Federation Honorary Officers early in the month. He told his audience that the United Nations General Assembly manifested plain anti-Semitism which could no longer be distinguished from anti-

Zionism. To illustrate his point he cited speeches by the Jordanian and Senegalese delegates, who rekindled the old notion that Jews sought to dominate the world. Standing with Blum are ZF chairman Geoffrey Gelberg (left), Eric Grauss, honorary secretary and Sidney Shipson, ZF general secretary.

Bronfman syndrome

REMARKS MADE BY Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, at the WJC conference in Jerusalem, caused a stir in British Zionist circles. The gist of what Bronfman said was that *alya* was not central to Jewish life, and therefore, by implication, neither was Israel.

Zionist Federation chairman, Geoffrey Gelberg, obviously had Bronfman in mind when he spoke at a meeting of the ZF national executive at the beginning of the month, at which reports from the WJC conference were discussed.

Gelberg warned of the danger of the Anglo-Jewish community being taken over by assimilationists. He was still in the same crusading mood when he addressed the annual conference of Pro Zion in London a few days later.

"I am genuinely worried that leadership can pass into the hands of potential assimilationists who would discourage *alya* and who contend that Israel should not ex-

pect greater help from the diaspora than that given to other Jewish communities," he said. Gelberg went on to attack "our philanthropists" who were "moving towards the creation of a 'rich man's club', becoming more and more aloof from Zionism, the grass roots Jewish movement for self-emancipation."

Returning to the assimilation theme, Gelberg went on to say: "Let the assimilationists recall that the Jews in pre-war Germany were assimilated but this did not affect their fate. They went to the same gas chambers as the Jews of Poland who were the cream of our people."

But the ZF Executive addressed itself to the issue in a less dramatic mood. It considered the possibility of strengthening Zionist influence both in the WJC as a whole and in its British participant, the Board of Deputies. Dr. S. Levenberg, a ZF honorary vice-president, advised that a separate WJC committee be established at the Board to monitor WJC activities and inform British Jewry.

Land sale was kosher

AB KRAMER, CHAIRMAN of the Zionist Federation Educational Trust, has firmly refuted accusations of irresponsibility over the sale of land on the old site of the Brodetsky School in Leeds.

Kramer said that the ZFET as well as George Lyttleton and his co-managers of the Leeds Jewish Day School had acted "in accordance with the highest degree of responsibility."

The former site of the Selig Brodetsky school at 456 Harrogate Road, Leeds, was acquired by the ZFET in the early 1960s entirely out of the then resources of the Trust. The school has been maintained throughout by the ZFET, both as a private school and later as a State-aided school.

Kramer also said that the "Trustees were obliged to seek the approval of the Charity Commissioners before selling the old site. In accordance with directions of the Charity Commissioners, tenders were required to be submitted by November 12, 1980."

The highest offer which was received was substantially in excess of that of Leeds Jewish Housing Association. "I wish to add that the total cost of the new Jewish Day School in Leeds is around £400,000 and whilst we are indebted to a number of individuals in Leeds for their generous contributions, the bulk of the funds have been provided from sources outside Leeds," Kramer concluded.

Vision in the Negev

Despite a chronic lack of funds, development south of Beersheba is no mirage, finds The Jerusalem Post's HIRSH GOODMAN.



Menahem Perlmuter amid maps and plans in his Beersheba office.

Negev has become journalistic "copy" again. The brewing fight between the army and the settlers, between the army and the conservationists, between the conservationists and the tourism organizations, have all contributed to turning newsmen's attention back to the forgotten sands of the Arava and the Negev in search of the type of conflict that makes headlines. What a disappointment to find, instead, an unperturbed Perlmuter claiming that there is no conflict at all, that there's plenty of room for everyone.

Sure, there are some problems with the military in the Nitzanim — Tse'elim area. There, he explains, geo-thermal springs have been found. While the water is too saline for irrigation (even by Israeli standards, where water with three times the generally accepted salinity is used), it has been discovered that by circulating the naturally-heated water just centimetres under the

earth's surface, ideal conditions are created for the accelerated growth of vegetables. This, coupled with the fact that the area enjoys sunshine for 78 per cent of the year, could turn it into a magnificent vegetable garden.

"BUT THE COUNTRY has diverse needs, and a balance has to be found. I don't think it will be a problem to find this balance — and even if it is, we've surmounted bigger problems in the past," he says with news-destroying equanimity. Perlmuter hopes he is not boring us by going on about the Negev. He has nothing but praise for the Jewish National Fund, and makes us feel good about every penny we dropped in our youth into the blue box to be found in virtually every Jewish home in the Diaspora.

"Everything, absolutely everything they've done," he says, "has been dedicated to making this



Plastic bubbles hide a future Negev vegetable crop.

country a better place to live in. They build settlements and roads; move tons of earth; construct precautions against floods; invest in nature preservation. They work efficiently and without publicity. It's one of the few organizations where the reality matches the posters."

Yitzhak Golan of the JNF, who is sitting with us, beams from ear to ear. The JNF doesn't often hear such lavish praise from the representative of a sister organization in a Zionist bureaucracy noted for sibling rivalries, but Perlmuter is obviously unaware of, or does not care about, the politics "up there in Jerusalem." He plans and the JNF executes, and together they have built a monument to Israeli ingenuity: thousands of dunams of desert producing vegetables for the markets of Europe; yields often more than 10 times the average of the world's most developed

agricultural societies; and all of high quality.

But all is not rosy in Perlmuter's rose garden. Not a single new housing unit has been added by the government to existing Negev settlements (not towns) for the past 18 months. More than 800 people have applied for the three units now available at Moshav Ein Yahav in the Arava. Nearly 250 young and eligible couples are competing for the four units available at Neot Hakikar. All of the 14 agricultural settlements in the Arava are filled to capacity, and if more money were forthcoming, thousands more dunams could be developed. But the money doesn't appear.

"The only time I remember funds coming in quickly," says Perlmuter, "was when, on the eve of President Sadat's visit to Israel, Agriculture Minister Sharon decided to build a string of

(Continued on page 15.)

(Below left) Tourists listen on an exposition of the Temple of Hathor at the Timna Park. (Right) Harvesting the pepper crop.



(Photos: Rafi Magnes.)



The great nineteenth-century English painter J.M.W. Turner never visited the Holy Land but he made a collection of fine watercolours of Holy Land views, based on the drawings of others who had been there. This collection, originally commissioned for the Fildens Landscapes of the Bible, were

on display at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, last month, in an exhibition entitled "Turner and the Bible." The Balfour Diamond Jubilee Trust, which was deeply involved in the preparation of the exhibition and the production of the catalogue, held a packed reception at the Ashmolean to mark the exhibi-

tion. Among the guests were Lord and Lady Wells-Pestell, Lady Isalah Berlin, Lady Calder, the Israel Minister Plenipotentiary, Yoav Bitan, Professor Trenman, Principal of St. Anne's College, Lady Pamela Hartwell and Ab Kramer.

JEWISH OBSERVER

A Journal of Zionist Commentary

Divided we stand

IT IS A FACT of life that the Israeli political party system has been extended to Zionist activities in this country. Thus, under the Zionist umbrella, you have Poale Zion, who are affiliated to the Israeli Labour movement; Herut, who are affiliated to Herut in Israel (although British Herut Chairman Eric Grauss says this is not so); the General Zionists Organization who are affiliated to the Liberal Party in the Likud; Mapam, to Mapam in Israel; Mizrahi — who are not a part of the Zionist Federation — to the National Religious Party, and the odd man out, United Zionists, who are self-declared non-party political.

The word "affiliated" in this context is used loosely, for none of these groups has formal links with its Israeli counterpart and in so far as any of them takes its cue from its corresponding Israeli party it does so on a strictly voluntary basis. So in this sense Eric Grauss cannot be faulted.

It must be said that all these affiliated bodies have been working together for the cause of Zionism with far greater harmony and cooperation than the Israeli parties with which they are associated have been doing among themselves. And so it should be.

Yet now, with the Israeli general elections looming ahead, it is to be expected that inter-party differences would be somewhat polarised. It seems a good time, therefore, to ask whether such a division along Israeli party lines is really necessary, and does it serve any useful purpose to Zionist work in this country. This is precisely what we have done.

Opinions are divided on this matter. Those who believe that affiliation to Israeli parties is a good thing argue that it increases involvement with Israeli affairs, that it motivates people, that it gives a framework for inter-communal exchange of views, and that it enables people to get inside information from visiting Israeli politicians.

All this has a measure of truth and, as with most things, there are always many angles from which to look at an issue. But it is at least true that in many meetings of Zionist organisations, participants stubbornly dig in their heels and take partisan positions when an issue ought to be considered on its merits. What is all the more frustrating is the fact that more often than not such polarisation occurs over matters which have nothing whatsoever to do with party politics — particularly party politics which have a meaning only thousands of miles away.

In so far as political affiliation does lead to a stronger involvement with Israeli affairs — and we have our doubts on this — it is to be welcomed. But it must then be said that it speaks poorly for British Zionism if an artificial and basically irrelevant political system is needed to arouse involvement with issues which are the concern of all Zionists and friends of Israel, regardless of any political complexion.

Peres and the UK

WHEN THE TORIES came to power in Britain in 1979 many people believed that with the correspondingly "Right" Likud Government, there would be a better understanding between the two countries than had Labour remained in power in Israel.

This belief has proved to be unfounded. In reality relations between Israel and Britain have hardly been worse since the birth of the Jewish State. It can be said that this is due to a clash of interests; and the common political complexion (if indeed there is one) cannot bridge over the gap. But it is no less true that the inflated ranks of the Conservative Friends of Israel in this country notwithstanding, the Likud has failed to forge the kind of bonds with the Tories that the *Ma'arach* (Israel's Labour Alignment) had with the British Labour Party.

It now looks as though Begin's government has all but given up the ghost. Opinion polls in Israel clearly indicate that, barring miracles or disasters — depending on which way you look at it — Shimon Peres will be voted into power on June 30.

How is this likely to affect British-Israel relations? Peres is not encumbered with an ideological commitment to retain the West Bank for Israel in perpetuity. He scores on that count. Some of his recent statements signal that, should he become Prime Minister, his policy with regard to the West Bank would differ from that of Begin's in tone and substance: restricted settlement and a solution based on what has become known as the "Jordanian option." There is no doubt that an Israeli Labour government would appear in the eyes of the West, including Britain, more "flexible" and generally more attractive than the Likud government is. At least to begin with.

But then we come to fundamental issues: the PLO, self-determination for the Palestinians, and the question of east Jerusalem. Lord Carrington is hell bent on gaining recognition for the PLO and supporting a Palestinian claim for an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza, including east Jerusalem. He is, moreover, working hard to make this an EEC policy, not only British.

On these issues he is likely to find Shimon Peres no less intractable than Begin. So the present clash of interests between Britain and Israel may well continue unresolved, albeit with more smiles, at least from the media.

JEWISH OBSERVER

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Anti-Semitism on campus

By Michael Goodman

THE STUDENT WORLD in Britain is well known for its militant opposition to racism of any kind, so one would expect that, of all places, the universities would be immune to anti-Semitism, and that with their reputation for liberalism, students would accept their Jewish fellows for what they are and support their right to organise whatever activities they wish.

This, however, is not the case. Jewish students are the only group who have been subjected to a systematic campaign to ban their societies and, despite assurances from the National Union of Students, we are still having to fight for the right to organise societies in many colleges all over the country. In the smaller colleges in particular, where our numbers tend to be low, and our societies weaker, the student unions have often passed resolutions that Zionism is racism and have banned Zionist activities on campus. This policy exists at Sunderland, North London and North East London Polytechnics and at many other colleges and universities.

Attacks and restrictions come under the guise of anti-Zionism but the effects often spill over into open anti-Semitism. For example, in the past few months a number of disturbing incidents have occurred:

A pamphlet printed by students at Sheffield University entitled "The Global Conspiracy", which claims to show the Jewish conspiracy to dominate the world, has appeared on a number of campuses.

The Islamic society at the University of Essex produced a magazine called "The Flocks",

which *inter alia*, accused the Jews of "committing genocide of the human race since the dawn of civilisation."

A Jewish student at the City of London Polytechnic, who had spoken against an anti-Zionist motion at a Union meeting, which was in fact convincingly defeated, received an extremely obscene, anti-Semitic letter. Part of it read, "You have no support in this place, Jew, so why not stop your Zionist activities before someone gets hurt. How would your mother feel about drinking pig's blood?"

A Jewish student at Sussex University received a threatening, anti-Semitic phone call.

The President of the National Union of Students, David Aaronovitch (who is not Jewish), has been the victim of a campaign of forged letters and abuse. He has been accused of being in the pay of the Israeli Embassy, and also of having a "Zionist name." The British anti-Zionist Organisation (Bazo), who published these letters, suggested that there are "dark, sinister and reactionary forces which stand behind him." Bazo also published material attacking the Union of "Jewish" Students (UJS).

More recently, David Irving, the historian who claims that Hitler knew nothing of the "final solution" has been speaking at universities throughout the country, apparently by arrangement with right-wing campus groups.

What is the effect of such incidents on Jewish students? Often, it brings many of them together for

the first time in their lives. But others become afraid, and unwilling to participate in any Jewish Society activities, even those which are not directly Zionist, because of the automatic association with Zionism, which is considered worse than racism, imperialism, colonialism and Nazism put together.

It is, after all, no longer necessary to be anti-Semitic. One can use all the same lies and propaganda, but remain apparently "anti-racist." Thus, the so-called left-wing groups can publish material claiming that a world Zionist conspiracy exists and that Zionists control the media and publishing world. Merely by substituting the word "Zionist" for "Jew," a lie is turned into a plausible allegation.

A generation of graduates has already been fed on a diet of anti-Zionism, and will become the future political leaders and opinion-formers in Britain and abroad. Their influence can already be felt in the press, trade unions and the constituency Labour parties. Jewish students, under the banner of the Union of Jewish Students, are fighting a battle to protect the whole Jewish community and Israel by attending meetings, contesting debates on the Middle East, and defending our rights as Jews.

In the field of anti-fascism, the UJS is the most active campus-based group. As a result of the work of Jewish students, many anti-Zionist resolutions have been defeated, ensuring that these more subtle attacks in the form of anti-Zionism are never left unanswered.

The author is Political Affairs Officer at the Union of Jewish Students

World Jewish Congress examined

By Sidney Shipton

THE SEVENTH PLENARY Assembly of the World Jewish Congress which took place in January has now concluded its deliberations. It was with some regret that, as a delegate elected by the Board of Deputies of British Jews, I did not attend, since I had previously attended the last two Plenary Assemblies of the World Jewish Congress and indeed took an active part in them as I had been both Honorary Secretary and Vice-Chairman of the World Jewish Congress (British Section) when it existed in this country.

Formed in 1936, the World Jewish Congress includes representatives from the World Zionist Organisation and many of the major world Zionist bodies. In addition, many individuals who hold positions within the World Jewish Congress also hold important positions within the World Zionist Organisation.

In my opinion there are two major reasons for the relevance of the World Jewish Congress today. Firstly, the national constituents are primarily the Jewish communal bodies, elected representatives of nearly all Jewish communities throughout the world. Secondly, it affords a forum for meeting representatives of Jewish communities from behind the Iron Curtain or even from Arab countries such as Morocco. Representatives of Rumania, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Morocco can, and have, come together with representatives of Jewish communities in the United

States, Israel and Britain, which they could not do under the banner of the World Zionist Organisation (or the Jewish Agency).

The problem as I see it, however, is perhaps typified by the situation in the United Kingdom. For many years, the World Jewish Congress had a British Section. This had elected to it representatives of a large number of Jewish bodies, primarily of the Zionist Organisations. The Board of Deputies of British Jews for many years declined to be the constituent part of the World Jewish Congress from the United Kingdom and, paradoxically, it was the World Jewish Congress, British Section, which put itself at the forefront of the battle to ensure that the Board of Deputies changed its attitude, which eventually it did in January 1974.

The World Jewish Congress, British Section, then put itself into "voluntary liquidation." It was the Zionist bodies who were at the forefront of the battle in the Board of Deputies, but the success of their efforts resulted in a decline in the influence of the British Zionist Organisations within World Jewish Congress activities in the United Kingdom.

What is even more important, is the decline in World Jewish Congress activities *per se* within the United Kingdom too. Obviously the

leadership of the Board of Deputies is very well aware of the work and activities of the World Jewish Congress in which it plays a very important role. The Board's representatives meet their counterparts regularly once a year at European Executive meetings of the World Jewish Congress, but the very name "World Jewish Congress" is not publicised to the Jewish community in the United Kingdom. Activities are carried out under the banner of the Board of Deputies. Previously it would have been carried out under the banner of the World Jewish Congress, British Section.

The major exception to this is the work of the Institute of Jewish Affairs which is in London, but this is an international organisation formerly situated in New York.

The Institute of Jewish Affairs does sterling work in research into Jewish matters and is an important arm of the World Jewish Congress on the international scene.

Now that the Plenary Assembly is over is it not time for the leadership of the Jewish community in the United Kingdom, particularly of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, to consider how to promote the World Jewish Congress within the Jewish community?

There are many Zionists who were actively involved in the British Section of the World Jewish Congress. Although these had worked for the liquidation of the British Section, they still think back to the time when the World Jewish Congress in Great Britain was known and recognised.

Who needs party affiliation?

There is a phenomenon in the British Zionist scene which from time to time gives rise to a controversy. It is the affiliation or association of certain Zionist groups with political parties in Israel. The JEWISH OBSERVER has put the question to a cross-section of its readers: Is organised support or affiliation to Israeli political parties at all relevant to Zionism in this country, and is not such a thing conducive to divisiveness within the Jewish Zionist community in Britain? Here are some of the comments:

Jack Barnett: "I'm against it. Unless you live in Israel there is no point in getting involved with Israeli party politics. It's ridiculous to have here branches of Mapam, Labour, Herut, etc. All this has not contributed much to Jewish communal life. But I don't think it is divisive."

Eric Grauss: We share Herut's ideology and we support it but we are not affiliated to Herut. Our ideology is based on what is good for the Jews and for Israel, not on partisan interests. But every person has a certain political ideology, and you can express your Zionist views better within a defined group. This is not divisive: we are all a part of the Zionist movement.

June Grant: I don't think it makes any difference one way or the other. People will always have differences of opinion. Partisan affiliations simply focus these differences and give them a form.



Brenda Katten

David Broomer: We could very well do without it but one is forced into it because the Left is so prevalent. It's absurd for the majority of our people who are not left-wing to be forced to give support to left-wing causes. Fund-raising has been used for political ends. All this is very divisive, and given the choice I'd not be involved with any party.

Brenda Katten: Organised involvement with Israeli parties is totally irrelevant and divisive. If you want to support this or that Israeli party, go and live in Israel. It is the people of Israel who are to decide what they want in politics. Our task is to work for Israel not for any party.

Eric Moonman: If Zionist political affiliation can be tempered with humility then it is of value. Political affiliation can only be supportive. I don't think it is divisive. This depends on the people. But it is valuable in that it is conducive to greater involvement with Israel and provides a kind of safety net: better to thrash things out in private than to air the differences in letters to the press.

Anthony Stanton: Zionism is the political expression of Jewish nationhood. Therefore if you are a Zionist you must be politically motivated to support the Jewish State. Affiliation is not divisive because it all comes under the umbrella of the Zionist Organisation. It also affords opportunities for meeting Israeli politicians and gaining better understanding of Israeli issues.

Lionel Bloch: The extension of Israeli political parties to Zionism abroad is unjustified. Israeli politics is not something that should concern British Jews. People who are friends of Israel want to help the

country, not follow the line of a political party.

Jeremy Gerlis: It can be divisive but much depends on the people involved. I think it's difficult to belong to a party while living in another country. However, affiliation does have its positive sides, particularly as far as students are concerned: students can identify more easily with political parties than with Zionism as a thing in itself.

Donald Silk: Party affiliation serves no useful purpose. On the contrary, it tends to project the differences within Israel onto the British Jewish scene. The Conservative, Labour, and Liberal Friends of Israel make affiliation to Israeli parties in the context of the question, redundant.

Chaim Berman: It serves no purpose whatsoever. Nor does it arise out of any local feeling. Party affiliation is encouraged and supported by the Israeli parties who like to feel that they have branches abroad.



Anthony Stanton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir, — I am no longer Director of CAABU and your Diplomatic Correspondent is mistaken in saying that I am. But since he refers to me by name in his report "CAABU fly a kite" (*Jewish Observer*, January issue), I challenge him to produce authority for his statements that until now CAABU's line has been "no acceptance of Israel" and "the dismantling of Israel."

In fact, CAABU has never attempted to enunciate any "line" or

NO LONGER THE DIRECTOR OF CAABU

policy and its members are entirely free to take and put forward whatever view they wish about the solution of the Palestine problem and, indeed, of any other problems affecting the Middle East, and the Arab World. However, time and again the officers and other leading members of CAABU have gone on record that they support a solution based on Resolution 242 provided it is supplemented by recognition of the Palestinians' right of self-

determination. That necessarily involves recognition of the right of every state in the area to live in peace and security, including Israel and any Palestinian state that may be set up in future. May I add that I wrote my letter to *The Times* entirely on my own and without any consultation whatsoever with the PLO? Your Diplomatic Correspondent really ought to take more trouble to check his facts.

Yours faithfully
JOHN REDDAWAY

TEMKIN AND OTHERS

Sir, — Due to lack of space my article "The Long Road to Finchley" in the October 1980, issue of *The Jewish Observer* didn't mention many persons who played an important part at 77 Great Russell Street and Rex House.

But I gladly put on record several names which have been brought to my attention: Joe Linton, Harry Shine, Shlomo Temkin, Moshe Dubsky, Monty Shaffer; they all played an enormous part — each in his own particular field. There were many others who must find their due place in any history of British Zionism.

Yours etc,
S. LEVENBERG

DOUBLE STANDARDS

Sir, — I congratulate Clive James on his review in the Sunday *Observer* of the film screened on ITV *Playing for Time* captioned "Auschwitz nightmare," and his comment that militant anti-Zionism is "well worth despising." Clive James in a few words exposed the hypocrisy of anti-Zionists who ostentatiously condemn Nazi barbarity and anti-Jewish fanaticism, yet are unconcerned that the United Nations-established Jewish State of Israel can be 'eliminated only by "staging the Holocaust all over again."

Yours sincerely,
J. GARNEL

BOOKS

Third World Israel

A Crisis of Identity: Israel and Zionism, by Dan V. Segre. (Oxford University Press. 182 pp. £6.50.)

By ELON SALMON

AMONG all the recent books on Israel this one must stand out with distinction. It does not make comfortable reading for anyone who is at all involved with Israel. Segre compares Israel's society to those of new African states in one specific sense: like African states, Israel's fundamental culture has been "colonised" by another, more dominant one — the Western consumer culture. And as in Africa, this has led to a crisis of identity with all the accompanying social ills, like ineffective national institutions which often give rise to corrupt practices.

Segre argues that, "By substituting imported ethics geared to the satisfaction of material needs on Western European values and consumption aspirations for the Jewish qualitative system of education and socialisation, Israel has considerably reduced her own attraction for potential immigrants." After all why should a potential immigrant be attracted to Israel if her values are indistinguishable from those of the West, when he can just as well go to (or stay in) London, Paris, New York and have the "real thing"?

But more than that: because the

Judaic context has been diminished in modern Zionism, young Israelis can no longer make sense of it. Hence they lose their motivation, become disillusioned, and emigrate.

Dan Segre brings a penetrating insight and commanding knowledge into his theory. It is a thought, however, that the imported Western superstructure of the Israel society was an imperative of the time. It is difficult to see how, without a Western-style industrial basis which inevitably created a consumer materialistic society, Israel could have coped with all the pressures imposed upon her by the Arab-Israeli conflict. Moreover, it is arguable whether the Judaic culture with all its variations throughout the world, could have been sufficiently robust to act as the sole jelling agent for a society which is basically made of refugees. It is on these two points that Segre's analogy of the African states weakens, for none of the African states had Israel's peculiar problems. The Israeli experience is, in fact, unique.

Another, pleasant, irony of the book is that Segre himself, in his sensitive and highly intelligent critic analysis, seems to operate in the old Judaic prophetic tradition. "A Crisis of Identity" is a most worthwhile book to read. It is a pity that the rather turgid style and small print make it less accessible than it might otherwise have been.

Jewish transhumance

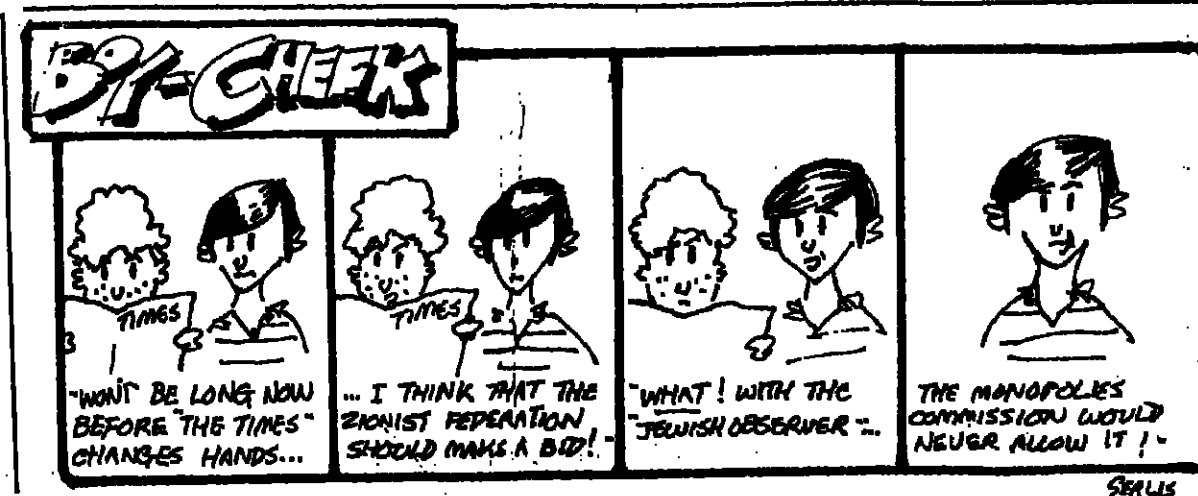
"The Vanished Worlds of Jewry," by Raphael Patai (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 192 pp. £12.50)

By TERENCE PRITTE

THE AUTHOR of this fascinating book is certainly right when he writes that the outstanding feature of the Jewish Dispersion was its amazing diversity. What two populations could have been more remote from one another than, for instance, the Jews of pre-Nazi Germany and of Morocco? In Germany, a tremendous and quite disproportionate contribution to the intellectual and imaginative life of the country was made by the self-styled "German citizens of the Jewish faith" — in the arts, the professions and in trade. In Morocco, as in other Moslem countries, Jews were objects of contempt, ostensibly protected *dhimmi*s, second-class citizens at the mercy of the "whims" of their rulers and of the periodically whipped-up fury of the mob.

Patai has written a sober, unemotional account of the tragedies which have overtaken Jewish communities. He has said little about the arrests, indignities and murders inflicted on the Jews of the Arab world, or about mass-slaughter perpetrated by the Nazis. His book is essentially a record of the movement of Jewish populations and of how they lived before those movements took place. It is excellently illustrated with photographs which have been selected with real discernment.

A disturbing question is posed by the story which he has told: where are Jews to live in days to come? Israel, obviously, will continue to gather, and the Jews of the United States should maintain their identity. Assimilation may be the enemy in Britain and France, and political uncertainty in Argentina and South Africa. Will another era of true liberalism enable the shattered communities of Europe, Africa and Asia to rebuild themselves? Or will Jews be forced to retreat upon and concentrate in Israel and a very few last bastions of democracy? Perhaps the underlying message of this book is that Jewish survival has been remarkable indeed, and for that reason most of all, will continue.



Minister's wife gives impetus to WIZO drive

MRS. MICHAL MODA'I, wife of Israel's Energy Minister, Yitzhak Moda'i, was the driving force behind a British WIZO membership campaign in January. Mrs. Moda'i, who came specially for the mission, made a speaking tour which included Brighton, Glasgow, Newcastle, Manchester, Leicester and Dublin.

The culminating point of the campaign was in London, where a celebrity breakfast/lunch meeting was held, at which Mrs. Hava Argov, wife of the Israeli Ambassador, was also present. The meeting attracted some 450 ladies. The actress Maureen Lipman was there, too, as one of the celebrity guests.

Speaking at the meeting, Mrs. Moda'i said, "The time has come for social distortions and economic imbalances in Israel to be corrected. WIZO's 650 institutions and services are a very real contribution to the building of the State, bridging the social gap, playing a vital role in easing the burden of the family at a time of almost uncontrollable inflation, unemployment and alarming signs of recession."

The co-chairman of British WIZO's membership department, Mrs. Brenda Katen, and Mrs. Gina Monty reported that 100 new members had joined. The campaign also contributed greatly towards the intensification of British WIZO's efforts in Israel.

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Double standards

The cardinal mistake of Israelis and Soviet Jews is that they expect too much of each other, writes YAKOV M. RABKIN.



Israeli university lecturers line up to greet newly-arriving Soviet immigrants at Ben-Gurion Airport.

(Newsphot)

label Jewish in all his official documents. It is assigned to anyone of Jewish parentage, sometimes even if only one parent is Jewish.

Religious freedom has been an important consideration for only a minority of the Soviet Jewish émigrés; the lack of prospects for their children and the solidly entrenched second-class-citizen status have been far more important. Seeing little hope of becoming fully assimilated and a prospect of downward social mobility, many Soviet Jews decide to try their luck abroad, and it is within this group that the choice is made either to go on aliya or to settle in the free lands of the Diaspora. The choice is made in long, agonizing discussions at the dinner table; its implementation awaits the moment when the Jew actually leaves the Soviet Union.

HAVING ESTABLISHED that emigration for the Soviet Jew is a matter of choice rather than of escaping danger, let us look at the conditions the Soviet Jew faces if he decides to leave his country and settle in Israel. "Whereas his motives for aliya may not be entirely different from those of a Jew from the free world, the circumstances of his aliya differ quite a bit. After the difficulties involved in leaving the USSR, and the accompanying anxiety and uncertainty, the émigré arrives in Israel. This is where the differences begin. The Soviet Jew has never seen the country. He has not visited it either as a private tourist or on one of the promotional tours sponsored by the Jewish Agency. He has never seen a *shul* (though the usefulness of these emissaries is far from obvious), nor talked with Israelis or with compatriots who have tried Israel and returned to their Diaspora homes. He is also aware that, having left his country, there is no way back. Soviet exit visas are one-way.

How many Western Jews would have opted for aliya under these initial conditions? BUT RATHER than answer rhetorical questions, let us see what the Israeli reality means for the Soviet oleh and for his Western counterpart. DESPITE official propaganda negating Jewish nationhood, the Soviet Jew has not perceived any danger of physical repression. What has frustrated him is the impasse to which his Jewishness has brought him: culturally assimilated, he still cannot cast off the "irrelevant"

The security of knowing that he can always return to his native land is perhaps the most important psychological factor that differentiates the experience of the Western from that of the Soviet oleh. And it is largely responsible for the way they react to the problem of integrating into Israeli society.

Western olim often find the new country more abrasive than do the Soviet immigrants. It is the latter, however, who get the feeling of being trapped in Israel. It is no accident that it was a Soviet and not a Western oleh who jumped to his death at a Haifa absorption centre.

The Soviet's perception of the difficulties of absorption is incomparably more acute, and rightly so, since the very fact of coming to Israel curtailed his chances of going anywhere else in the free world.

Once in Israel he is no longer considered a refugee by Western countries where he might eventually wish to settle should his experience in Israel prove too discouraging. Conversely, once admitted to a Western country, he acquires freedom of choice, and can give Israel a try, like any Western Jew.

Defining one's official status in Israel is an important consideration. While, by virtue of the Law of Return, the Soviet Jew, stripped of his Soviet citizenship, automatically becomes an Israeli citizen on arrival here, the Western Jew can take his time and test the ground as a tourist, a student or a temporary resident.

There most certainly is a significant difference in the meaning of aliya for the Western and the Soviet Jew. The latter, once having left his country, is cut off from it forever. He has to rely on the slow and unpredictably censored postal flow between Israel and the Soviet Union, where he has left relatives and friends. For all practical purposes, his link with the old country is severed brutally and irreversibly.

THE AMERICAN JEW comes from a land which commands respect and envy in Israeli society, exercises an inordinate influence and remains Israel's last ally in an increasingly hostile world. The widespread adulation of everything American stands out in sharp con-

trast, though his comparative excellence involves much stress and psychological discomfort.

ANOTHER FACTOR contributing to stress and insecurity is money. It is reasonable to assume that few Western Jews come on aliya with less than \$150, which is the total amount in liquid assets the Soviet Jew is allowed to take with him from his native land. This, incidentally, explains why the Soviet émigrés are involved in the unedifying petty trade in Rome which was so picturesquely exposed on these pages several months ago. It also makes the Soviet oleh totally dependent on the bureaucratically-dispersed loans of the Jewish Agency and the Ministry of Absorption.

Let me expand my earlier question: How many Western Jews would have opted for aliya under these conditions?

Much has gone wrong during the 10 years of Soviet aliya. The cardinal mistake of both Israelis and the Soviet Jews was that they expected too much of each other.

ONCE IN Israel, Soviet olim discovered a very different land from what they had imagined (the Russian-language broadcasts of Kol Israel had contributed to their over-expectations). Insecurity breeds aggressiveness, and the Soviet olim's behaviour pattern did not differ substantially from that of other uprooted populations determined to make it in the new land. After all, today every fourth physician and every fifth scientist in Israel is a graduate of a Soviet university.

The roots of the two kinds of over-expectation are different, and what concerns me most are the expectations Israeli and many Western Jews have had of their Soviet brethren.

In the West, the heroic image of Soviet Jews has helped to mobilize world public opinion around the emigration issue. The effect has been the release of a quarter of a million Jews from the USSR. In Israel, as the post-Six Day War society was plunged into its new self-oriented materialistic future, a need for an ideal, a continuation of the old romantic Zionism, was felt, and Soviet Jewish activism came at the right time.

Those refuseniks who chained themselves at public places in Moscow and staged hunger strikes in the obscurity of the Urals prisons were heroes indeed. So are those who have to resort to similar forms of protest today in order to obtain their exit visas. But these heroes lose a good deal of their Zionist fervour in the merciless clash with Israeli life. Idealism and romantic images of Israel are somewhat easier to hold on to in the Diaspora, particularly when actively defying the hated Soviet regime.

ONE MAY also wonder why the Russian instructions on the Hebrew examination paper for newcomers at the Hebrew University differ so drastically in quality and clarity from the corresponding English, French and Spanish versions.

All this clearly complicates the Soviet oleh's life. Moreover, Israel's English-language media, both printed and electronic, are of incomparably better quality than their Russian counterparts. Kol Israel's Russian-language broadcasts project a much more idealized image of Israel than do the broadcasts in English or French, and certainly than those in Hebrew.

This further emphasizes the need for the Soviet oleh to detach himself from his linguistic milieu, which cannot but increase his sense of insecurity in the new country.

On the positive side, however, the same insecurity makes Soviet olim conspicuously better students at *alpanim* than their Western class-

(Continued on page 15)

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COMMENTARY

"THE SECURITY COUNCIL... affirms further the necessity... for achieving a just settlement of the refugee problem."

This passage from Resolution 242 of November 22, 1967, has come in for increasing Arab criticism over the past few years.

Arab spokesmen, and especially PLO leaders, claim that this sentence should be changed to an unambiguous reference to the rights of the "Palestinian Arab people." What these spokesmen overlook, intentionally, is the fact that the original phrase was carefully worded to refer to *all* the refugees, both Arabs and Jews.

Arab propagandists never cease to demand full satisfaction for the claims of the 520,000 to 650,000 Arab refugees created by the Arab attempt to prevent the establishment of Israel in 1948. In their zeal, they often grossly exaggerate the numbers. What they overlook is the existence of an even larger group of Middle Eastern refugees: the Jews of Arab lands.

In 1948, over 850,000 Jews lived in Arab countries. Today, fewer than 20,000 remain, and a sizeable proportion of these are unwilling hostages, held against their will.

About 635,000 of the Jews who have left the Arab countries since 1948 have come to Israel, while the rest are scattered throughout the world.

IN EFFECT, an almost equal exchange of populations has taken place between Israel and the Arabs. This is not unlike other situations, such as the population exchange between Greece and Turkey after World War I or the massive exchange of refugees between India and Pakistan in 1947.

The difference lies not in the creation of the refugees but in the fate of the refugees.

The Arab refugees were isolated in refugee camps and forced to live on international charity. Only Jordan of all the Arab states granted citizenship to a sizeable number of refugees.

The Arab states have consistently refused to do their fair share to help their "brothers." Thus, Israel has, over the years, contributed far more money to UNRWA, the UN agency for Arab refugees, than have Egypt, Jordan or even oil-rich states such as Iraq or Kuwait.

Of the \$1.5b. spent by UNRWA, less than 5 per cent have come from all 21 Arab states combined. Over 70 per cent has come from the U.S. The oil-rich Arab states, such as Saudi Arabia, are willing to donate hundreds of millions of dollars to support terrorist operations, but refuse to donate any significant sums to humanitarian causes.

In contrast, the Jewish refugees from Arab countries who came to Israel received no international aid



Yemenite Jews on a plane to Israel during the "Magic Carpet" operation in 1949.

The other refugees

Amiel Reiter considers the case for compensation for the 830,000 Jews who have had to leave the Arab countries.

at all. But they were given equal citizenship and whatever help that Israel and the Jewish people could manage.

Unlike the Arab refugees who fled to familiar surroundings where the language, culture and economies were identical to what they had known before, the Jewish refugees were confronted by a totally new culture. Most had to learn a new language, a new profession and adapt to a new way of life.

In the early 1950s, when most of them arrived, Israel was impoverished and able to provide little material aid. But today, there are no more refugee camps in Israel. All the former refugees are full citizens and most have been successfully absorbed, economically and socially.

WHY DID nearly all the Jews leave the Arab countries? These Jewish communities were very ancient,

often more ancient than the Arab majorities. Thus, Jews have lived in Iraq and Egypt since the time of Jeremiah, more than 1,000 years before the Arabs conquered these countries.

Following the Arab-Muslim conquest, Jews and other religious groups were subjected to humiliating and discriminatory restrictions and taxation. They were considered *dhimmi*, subjected people.

The history of Jews in Islamic countries is one of discrimination and harassment, with occasional intervals of intense persecution or, at other times, greater tolerance. Nevertheless, the Jews managed to make significant contributions to both Jewish culture and to the economic, social and cultural development of their countries.

This situation continued until European dominance of the Middle

East brought with it the concept of emancipation and equal rights. In Yemen, where European influence never penetrated, Jews remained subjected to *dhimmi* status until our own times.

Elsewhere, however, Jews prospered and achieved distinction in every possible field: in business and administration, in the professions, in art and literature.

But emancipation in the Islamic countries was far more shallow than even in Europe. By the 1930s, anti-Jewish sentiments, reinforced by Nazi propaganda, swept the Islamic world. A temporary peak was reached in Iraq in June 1941, when a pro-Nazi coup was followed by an anti-Jewish pogrom in which 175 Jews were killed and 1,000 injured.

In 1947-48, the establishment of the State of Israel set off an even more violent spate of pogroms throughout the Arab countries. The

Jews, most of whom had remained loyal to Jewish traditions and retained a simple and straightforward love of Zion, left *en masse* for Israel.

These Jewish communities had provided a steady stream of aliyah since the mid-19th century. This mass aliyah was the culmination of long gestating messianic hopes which were galvanized by Arab persecution and violence.

But some Jews did not want to leave. They had become fully acculturated. They felt at home in the lands where their forefathers had lived for 2,500 years and where the language, culture and society were as much theirs as their Moslem neighbours.

These Jews, who were not Zionists — very often they were anti-Zionists — were also not permitted to live in peace. Thus, in Egypt, nearly all adult male Jews were arrested in 1967, many were tortured and held for up to three years.

In Syria, Jews are forbidden to leave and the community of about 4,000 is subjected to constant difficulties.

IN RECENT YEARS, calls for compensation have started to be heard. Previously, such claims were not thought to be realistic and so were generally not made. As long ago as 1969, the Israel Government decided that the Justice Ministry should register claims of Jews for compensation for lost property. Although only partial, the initial studies indicate that Jewish property, both communal and private, confiscated by Arab governments totals as much as five times the maximal claims of Palestinian Arabs against Israel.

Until now, these claims have been largely ignored. This seems to be a serious mistake. The case of the Jews from Arab lands is a just cause in its own right, but takes on added importance for Israel as a counterweight to Palestinian Arab claims. Perhaps the oversight is due to a simplistic interpretation of Zionism, which refuses to allow Jews to see any diaspora as being "theirs," even if they lived there for 2,500 years. Perhaps, it is due to a lack of realization of the tremendous wealth that was taken from Jews by Arab governments.

In any case, it is time for these claims to be taken seriously and to be pressed by all possible means in international forums and before world public opinion. Three-quarters of all Jews from Arab lands are in Israel today. Together with their children, they form more than 40 per cent of Israel's population. It is up to Israel to take the lead in representing these claims.

The author is a commentator on international affairs.

Final payment for Nazi victims

By SHLOMO MAOZ
Post Economic Reporter

through Jewish organizations and DM40m. for use by Jewish communities in Germany, as its part of a final settlement of outstanding claims for losses incurred during the Nazi era. Representing the Jewish side in the negotiations was the Claims Conference, headed by former World Zionist Organization head Nahum Goldmann, representing 22 Jewish communities.

The DM400m. is meant mostly for Jews who have left Eastern European countries in recent years and

those who for other reasons were unable to submit their claims before 1965, when the last such agreement was operative. The money will first be turned over to the Central Committee of Jewish Communities in West Germany, which is supervised by that country's comptroller, and then pass to the Claims Conference, responsible for dealing with in-

dividuals through the five offices to be opened.

The money will be released gradually by the West German government: DM50m. were allocated in 1980, and another DM100m. are expected to be paid out this year.

It is thought that most of those who will receive compensation live in Israel. Eligible for DM5,000 will be any Jews who suffered persecution by the Nazis — those who fled to the forests or wore yellow stars; suffered 80 per cent disability; suf-

fered 50 per cent disability wholly from Nazi actions; are now in need financially (by German national insurance standards — incomes of less than DM1,000 a month), and who did not receive compensation through any previous law.

Claimants in this last category will have to demonstrate their situation of need, but men over 65 and women over 60 will be nearly automatically recognized for the purpose.

According to the agreement, the right to compensation will not be granted to heirs of those who would be eligible, and there will be no legal appeal for those whose claims are turned down.

Vision in the Negev

(Continued from page 12.)
dummy settlements in order to create facts in the Rafiah salient. But apart from that..."

WE LEAVE BEERSHEBA, with Perlmutter to see for ourselves what has been achieved. But only after a lecture from him on how the press has demoralized the country by reporting only the negative and the destructive.

We travel cramped in a station wagon, past Dimona to the newest settlement in the Arava Iddan. Some 40 houses stand on a sandy plain 160 metres below sea level. Saplings have been planted, but it will take years before they can provide either shade or a visual respite from the uniform brown mass to north and south.

Iddan has been taken over by young couples who are predominantly either "Anglo-Saxon" or Israeli — who have returned home from protracted periods abroad. Most are academics, and a young couple from England look on with delight as we admire a crop of freshly-picked eggplants piled high on the back of a tractor.

Iddan will eventually form a link between Neot Hakikar near Sdom and Hatzeva in the Arava, providing an unbroken green belt along the border with Jordan.

"The philosophy is clear," says Perlmutter. "Our green belt is the clearest message we can give to the other side that this is ours, that we are here to stay."

He recalls how a young Beduin friend told him recently about standing with his father atop a hill watching the Jews planting tomatoes. "Any hope we ever had of moving them from here is gone," said the father. "Those tomatoes are their roots. So we must now learn to live with them — and learn from them."

We continue south from Iddan to Hatzeva and Ein Yahav, via a sand road running parallel to the border. To the right, nothing but desert. To the left, kilometre after kilometre of neat rows of vegetables, some covered in plastic, others ripening in the winter sun. There is a heavy scent of onions in the air.

Suddenly, on the periphery of Ein Yahav, we come across a sign, "Beware of drowning." The Jewish National Fund has built a dam in the area to trap the rainwater and allow it to filter into the network of subterranean springs that run beneath the Negev's surface.

By the time we get to Grofit and Yatvata, one no longer gasps at the taming of the desert. The things that were so impressive a few hours back have become commonplace. The new kibbutzim at Yahel, Tzofar and Ketura are taken for granted, as are the thousands of cows waiting to be milked in the middle of nowhere.

WE TALK TO Bilu Mishori, the forceful chairman of the Eilat regional council. Tomorrow is a big day for him, because at Timna they are opening the nature reserve, and a new motel complex and Negev archeological museum.

"We are preparing for the day when the Sinai is returned to Egypt," he explains. Over the past 13 years, hundreds of thousands of tourists have streamed into the south from Israel and abroad, and the regional council is doing its best to fill the tourist vacuum that will be left after the beaches of Eilat and

Dahab are returned to Egypt.

One questions the logic of the supposition that the multitudes will continue to flow into the area when that happens, to be met with a blank stare reserved for those of little faith. If logic had governed our actions in the past, we would have remained in Tel Aviv. One feels chastised. One has to have vision.

The visionaries have prepared themselves well. They managed to persuade the JNF, the Tourism Ministry and the Eilat municipality to invest IS1.5m. in the Timna project. They managed to persuade the Kibbutz Movement to finance a motel at Yatvata. Plans for a cheap tourist infrastructure in and around Eilat to accommodate the expected hordes of Israelis who will come to seek their Sinai in the Negev are in an advanced stage.

Maps are rolled out, and charts show the projected development — all sites to be ready by April 1982, when the last Israelis leave the Sinai. Remembering the experiences of the morning, and listening to the resolve of the speakers, one has little doubt that the plans will become a reality.

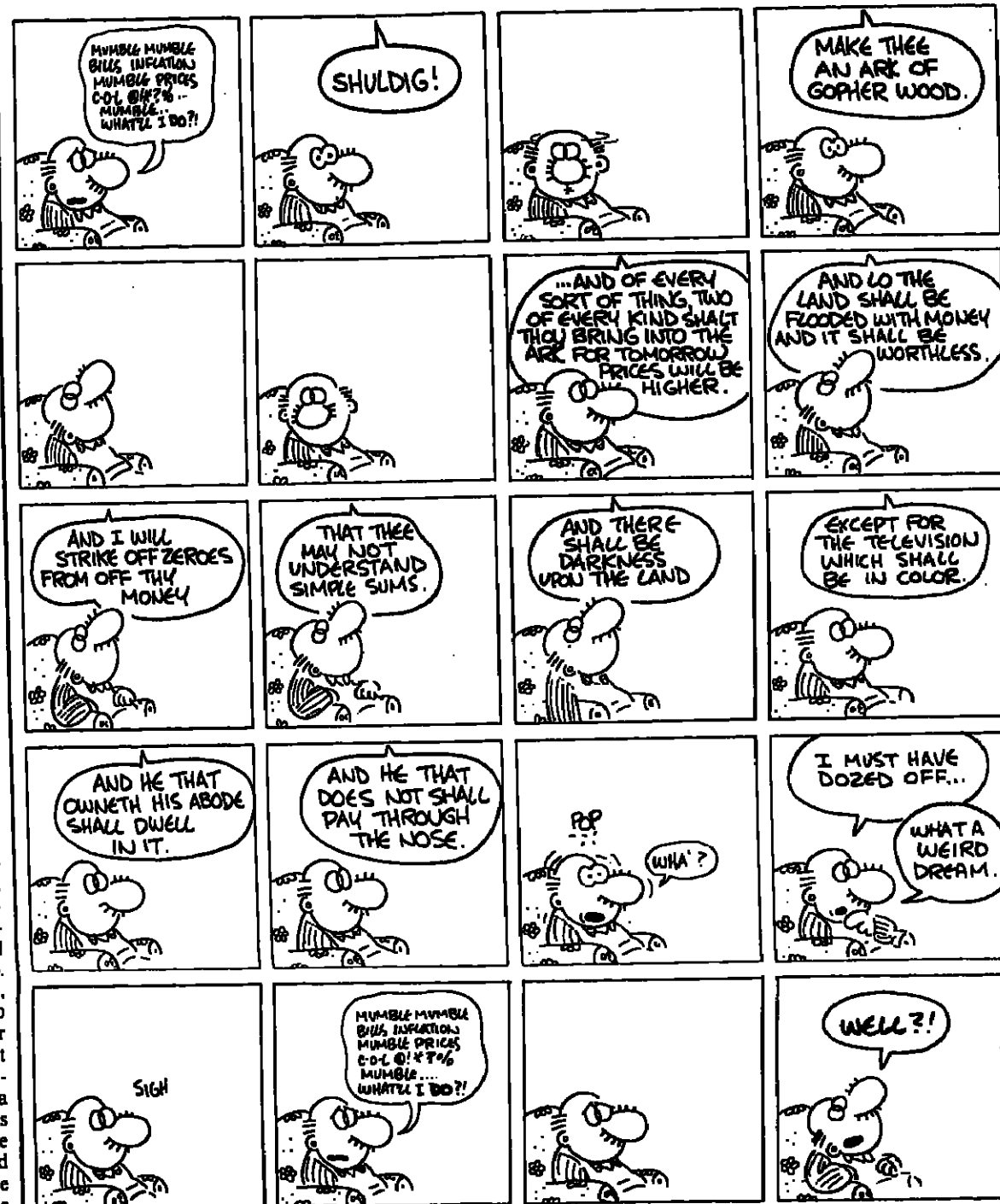
THE TIMNA Valley Park lies 27 km. north of Eilat, and the experts claim that this was the first place on earth where ore was extracted from rocks. Over 60 sq.km. adjacent to the current Timna mines have been signposted with detailed explanations of what there is to see. Apart from the magnificent, ever-changing views, the area is of particular geological, botanical and archeological interest. The park contains King Solomon's Pillars, and copper mines dating back to 4000 BCE. The Temple of Hathor has been excavated, and ancient rock-paintings have been uncovered. One can travel the area either using the 18 km. of roads recently laid by the JNF, or else spend a day walking a well-marked route. There is a reception centre with detailed explanations of the various features of the park.

Making this into a national park was the idea of Ze'ev Tempkin, called Zurk by one and all, who did his thesis on the area to earn a geography degree from Tel Aviv University. For four years he combed the region and pulled every string he could to get his project accepted. It was the Sinai peace agreement that gave his cause impetus — as indeed it did other projects in the Negev — and the country owes him a debt of gratitude. There are few more impressive sites in Israel, in terms of both diversity and pure natural beauty.

Despite the comfort of the air-conditioned bus driving us around the park, one felt one was in a time machine that had deposited us back at the dawn of history. Here, at Timna, the desert has remained ageless.

With all the years of government neglect, the Negev has flourished. Mainly because of people like Perlmutter, who watched over us like a gloating father during the few days we spent looking at his "baby." At this moment in Israel's history, the expectations of a vast upsurge of settlers and visitors may seem like false optimism. Be that as it may, we can rest assured that Perlmutter *et al.* will be there, fighting the odds and building what should be a source of pride to us all.

The Weekend Dry Bones



Double standards for immigrants

(Continued from page 13.)
of choosing the country of settlement.

In an attempt to curb the growth in the number of *neshira*, the Israel government wants to make it clear to Soviet Jewish émigrés that it will not allow the Israeli visa to be changed for a "visa of convenience" in Vienna. So far, the united efforts of the Diaspora Jews have succeeded in blocking this policy, which raises serious humanitarian questions.

The over-dramatization of *neshira* points at the existence of a double standard being applied to Diaspora Jews. Somehow, the fact that in 1979 only 40 per cent of Soviet Jewish émigrés settled in Israel seems to provoke more anxiety than the substantially lower figures of the Israel-bound among, say, South African, or Argentinian Jewish émigrés. Let us also recall how, only two years ago, half-empty El Al planes were taking off from Teheran leaving behind Jews who preferred the uncertainties of "fundamentalist" Iran to the outstretched hand of the Jewish state.

The attraction of Israel for

Diaspora Jewry (as well as for Israeli-born Jews) is apparently the issue. The recently rediscovered *yerida* may have some of the same roots as the *neshira* of the Soviet and other Jewish migrant groups; the challenge of continuing the Israeli experience in its present form is less attractive than the old challenge of building the state.

Immigration from all over the world has plummeted in recent years. While the *neshira* of Soviet Jews increased in the years 1976-1980 from 20 to almost 80 per cent of all émigrés, their proportion of the total aliyah fluctuated in the same years only between 37 and 47 per cent. This means that Soviet Jews continue to supply the bulk of olim, and that the dramatic rise in *neshira* is only a reflection of the aliyah trend worldwide. Should it, then, be decreed as "ingratitude" on the part of the Soviet Jews? Does the hard fact that the Soviet government would not allow Jews to emigrate unless they declared Israel as their destination justify this indignation?

THE TIME HAS COME to face reality without ideological blinkers.

The Soviet aliyah, aliyah from the largest Jewish Diaspora outside the U.S., has been a very limited success. It is a sad fact of the last decade of Jewish history that petty political rivalries and the deterioration of the social fabric within Israel have crushed the aliyah momentum in Soviet Jewry. The jealousy of ordinary Israelis, the cruel indifference of the political leadership of this country, and the deplorable impotence of the Diaspora leaders have been the main factors in frustrating the promised aliyah from the USSR.

These factors have been particularly harmful in view of the shallow and naive character of Soviet Zionism, a Zionism without Zionist organizations.

The former Prisoners of Zion who so valiantly thrust open the gates of the Soviet Union for other Jews 10 years ago did not suffer in vain. But it hurts to see what has become of the image of the Soviet Jew in Israel.

The author is a NATO Research Scholar currently working at the Russian and East European Research Centre, Tel Aviv University.

JERUSALEM POST LITERARY SUPPLEMENT (Incorporating Israel Book World by the Book & Printing Center, Israel Export Institute)

Jerusalem Fair

More than 600 of the leading publishing houses in 45 countries have registered for the 10th Jerusalem International Book Fair, to be held at Binyanei Ha'uma between April 5-10, 1981.

The Fair, which is the second largest of 13 international book fairs which take place throughout the world, is an established cooperative enterprise of the Jerusalem Municipality and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism with the active participation of the Book Publishers' Association of Israel and the Book and Printing Center of the Israel Export Institute.

The budget for this year's Fair is IS 3m., of which 50% will be covered by the sale of book stands and tickets, with the rest divided between the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism and the Jerusalem Municipality. Quite apart from its cultural value, the Fair is a commercial undertaking of the first rank, with the publishing houses conducting business among themselves during the morning hours.

The Fair is the only international enterprise to have taken place regularly in Israel for 18 years. The last fair, in 1979, attracted more than 150,000 visitors.

The Jerusalem Prize for the Freedom of the Individual in Society will be given this year to the British novelist, Graham Greene.

Calendar Prize



A Hebrew-English calendar that can be turned into a family of three-dimensional Jewish folklore dolls won a top prize for Israel at Stuttgart's annual calendar design competition in January.

The entry was designed by W. Turnowsky, an Israeli firm that also won a top prize for a calendar on the subject of old Jewish manuscripts. The winners were among 10 Israeli designs entered in the 30th annual competition. They had been selected from among 23 calendars at a national contest run by the Israel Productivity Institute.

The Institute, which has sent Israeli entries to the competition and calendar display fair in Germany for the last five years, expects that the exposure of Israeli designs will lead to commercial deals for Israeli printing exporters.

Each of the Turnowsky calendars was printed by Lewin-Epstein on thick, glossy paper, using gold-metallic and luxurious pastel colours.

JUDY SIEGEL



At the Cairo Fair

The 13th Cairo International Book Fair proved that cultural events of world-wide interest are sufficiently important to succeed despite attempts to turn them into political forums.

The stand of Israeli books became a special point of attraction at the Fair, the aggressive propaganda against its presence even helping to make it a focus of attention. The thousands of people who visited the Israeli stand thus demonstrated their abhorrence of the enmity shown by a small section of the participants. The visitors leafed through the books with curiosity, they conversed amicably with the Israeli personnel and, moreover, they bought books beyond Israeli trade expectations.

They bought some 1,500 books, in Hebrew, Arabic and English and, compared to the situation in other national book pavilions, Israel did a very brisk trade.

The visitors to the Israeli stand came from many sections of the Egyptian population — government employees, professors and university students, librarians and members of the free professions, representatives of institutes and religious organisations. They came, saw the books and conversed freely with the Israelis, and they bought; some university titles, bought between 10-30 titles.

The impact of the first cordial contact with Israeli publishing (representatives of 20 Israeli publishing houses attended the Fair) was felt immediately and the direct contact between 70,000 visitors at the stand with the reality of Israel augurs well for the future peaceful relations between the two countries.

The section of the Israel stand devoted to the four Israeli publishers specializing in Arabic books was of particular interest to the Cairenes who, for the first time, understood the enormous potential for intellectual exchange.

The keen interest of Egyptians, from all walks of life in Hebrew books, was quite unexpected. Till then we had not known that thousands of Egyptians read and speak Hebrew and, in fact, one heard Hebrew at the stand as much as Arabic, English and French. Hebrew grammars and dictionaries were snatched up from the shelves and completely sold out; classic and modern Hebrew literature was snapped up by the students — especial interest being shown in the works of A.B. Yehoshua, Yehuda Amichai and S.Y. Agnon. A number of orders were received for Ahad Ha'am's and Shlonsky's books, which were not available at the stand.

SHLOMO EREL

Publishers' showcase

Shiloah Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies
Tel Aviv University
Ramat Aviv

The Middle East and the United States: Perceptions and Policies
edited by Haim Shaked and Itamar Rabinovich
English edition: Transaction Books, New Brunswick, 1980.
414 pp. hard cover and soft cover editions.

Hebrew edition: Ofakim Series, Tel Aviv, 1980, 458 pp.

THIS VOLUME is based on the proceedings of an international colloquium held at Tel Aviv University. The colloquium was organized in March 1978 by the Shiloah Center in cooperation with the university's newly established Center for Strategic Studies.

As the title and subtitle imply, special emphasis was laid on the images and perceptions that people of the Middle East and the United States have had of one another, and the way in which their relationship is viewed from within the area, from Washington and other pertinent vantage points. The conference also dealt with five other major issues: the historic background and evolution of American policy in the Middle East (papers by Elie Kedourie, the London School of Economics; and Wilfrid Knapp, Oxford University); American interests in the Middle East (papers by Uri Arad, Tel Aviv University; Gad Gilbar, Haifa University; and Bernard Reich, George Washington University); the international context within which American policy in the area is conducted (Yaacov Ro'i, Tel Aviv University; Richard Rosecrance, Cornell University; and Udo Steinbach from the Orient Institut in Hamburg); the formulation of American policies in the Middle East (Steven Spiegel, UCLA); and America's bilateral relationship

with several Middle Eastern states (papers by Yoram Dinstein, Yair Evron, Gideon Gera, Itamar Rabinovich, and Shimon Shamir, Tel Aviv University; and John Waterbury from Princeton University). The papers that dealt directly with views, images, and their depiction were presented by Bernard Lewis from Princeton University and the Institute for Advanced Study, and Haim Shaked from Tel Aviv University.

The Middle East Contemporary Survey, Volume III, 1978-79

Edited by Colin Legum, Haim Shaked and Daniel Dishon
Publisher: Holmes and Meir Publishers, New York and London, XXXVI + 918 pp., 1980.

THIS IS the third volume of a comprehensive annual review which analyses events and issues in the Middle East. Covering the period from November 1978 up to October 1979, the new volume contains:

A presentation detailing the final stages of the negotiations leading to the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty; a legal analysis of the treaty; and a closely documented description of the first stages of its implementation;

An account of the consolidation of the Arab anti-Sadist bloc at the two Baghdad conferences of 1978 and 1979 and an evaluation of the sanctions imposed against Egypt by Sadat's adversaries;

An analysis of Khomeini's rise to power in Iran and a detailed account of the initial period of his regime;

A special introductory essay examining the interaction of domestic and foreign, political and economic developments in the region as a whole and the impact of the "tide of Islam";

Special sections devoted to the (Continued on next page)

(Continued from preceding page)
Great Power, European and African relations with the Middle East, the regional military balance and oil policies;

Country-by-country sections convey a lively understanding of the specific political dynamics of each of the countries described. Each country survey is accompanied by updated economic data;

The book also includes maps, a detailed index and a list of dozen of documents and sources.

The Hillel Press
c/o Judaica Book Center
P.O.B. 15081, Jerusalem

Malbim — Commentary on the Torah: Genesis, Vol. I, translated by Zvi Faler and introduced by R. Chaim Zimmerman. XLVII + 451pp. 23 x 16 cm. Hardcover.

THIS is the first translation into English of the work of the Malbim, the renowned 19th century commentator and philosopher. The commentary is noted for its profound logic. Through this translation, the Malbim addresses man's essential intellectual and emotional preoccupations.

Edanim Publishers
P.O.Box 7705
Jerusalem

Homecoming — The Story of Avital Scharansky by Avital Scharansky with Ilana Ben Joseph
179 pp. 13 x 21 cms. 1980 Hebrew English edition, *Next Year in Jerusalem*, Wm. Morrow, New York

WHEN Anatoly Scharansky was imprisoned by the Soviet authorities in July, 1978, after being accused of illegal activities, he became the passive hero of a worldwide campaign to get him freed which became, in fact a fight for the right of Soviet Jews to live wherever they chose. This struggle has had no positive results to date, nevertheless Anatoly's wife Avital did not give up and this book is one more attempt to

Publishers' showcase

ring the alarm bells of public opinion.

Shefa Press
P.O.B. 7782, Jerusalem
Shefa Quarterly No. 7.

SINCE 1977, the Shefa Quarterly has offered thinking Jews an unusual opportunity to explore the spiritual and intellectual resources of Jewish tradition. The brainchild of Jerusalem scholar Adin Steinsaltz, one of the great teachers and thinkers of our time, it has been successful in bringing together creative Jewish approaches, drawn from both traditional and modern sources, to subjects as diverse as prayer, philosophy of science, political thought, hasidism and mysticism, and philosophy.

Dispora and Israeli thinkers and authors whose works have appeared in *Shefa* include Irving Greenberg, Arthur Green, Samuel Dresner, S. H. Bergman, Zvi Yaron, Pinhas Pelli, Aaron Appelfeld, Zeldi, Rav Kook and of course Rabbi Steinsaltz himself, whose English-language articles are published regularly in the *Quarterly*. Their original contributions have combined to make the *Shefa Quarterly* one of the freshest voices in the Jewish world today.

Massada Ltd. Publishers
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The Jordan Photographs and text by Micha Bar-Am, 120 pp., 48 pp. colour, 24 pp. text, 48 pp. duotone. 25.5 x 25.5 cm. In preparation.

A GLORIOUS photographic ode to the Jordan River — sacred to three religions and to the land it nourishes. From the floods of winter to the dry beds of summer, the pages pulsate with the vitality of the river. Bar-Am's magical lens captures the fields fed by the Jordan, the birds that nest on its

banks, and the people that come to be blessed by its waters. A superb gift book.

Words into Images: The Old Testament in Art by Mira Friedman c. 200 pp., 120 full-colour and b/w plates. 22 x 30 cm. In preparation.

THIS is an important discussion of art works that have been based on the Old Testament. Dr. Friedman, a lecturer at Tel Aviv University and a curator at the Tel Aviv Museum as well as director of its art library, provides a thought-provoking survey drawn from all periods, places and media. Abundantly illustrated, the book highlights the influence of Jewish and classical sources in the formation of Christian art.

Dr. Friedman ranges from murals to mosaics, illuminated manuscripts, stained glass windows and objects of art in all materials and synthesizes their artistic purpose. The format is broad and rich and the book a thoroughly satisfying experience.

The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, P.O.B. 404, Jerusalem.

Greek and Latin Authors on Jews and Judaism, by Menahem Stern
Volume Two: *From Tacitus to Simplicius*
690 + XVII pp., 15 x 24 cm. Cloth.

VOLUME II extends the corpus of

texts relating to Jews and Judaism by the Greek and Latin authors of Antiquity, continuing the series from Tacitus to Simplicius. As in Volume I, the writings of each author are accompanied by an introduction, a critical apparatus, an English translation and a detailed commentary, in which the sources are examined in the context of the latest scholarship and archeological findings.

In the changing perspective of social, cultural and historical forces, the observations on Jews and Judaism recorded in this series express a wide range of contemporary thought, including the views of writers on philosophy, history, geography and medicine among other fields. In Volume II, the works of Tacitus and the satires of Juvenal reflect the feelings of influential circles of Roman society in the age following the destruction of the Second Temple, while the series concludes with concepts of Judaism held by the Neoplatonist philosophers of the last stages of the Graeco-Roman culture of Antiquity.

The collection furnishes invaluable source material for both the student and general reader on the place of Jews and Judaism in the Mediterranean world during the centuries covering the rise and spread of Hellenism and the historical watershed marking the transition from paganism to Christianity.

The Institute for the Translation of Hebrew Literature
66 Shlomo Hamelech St.
Tel Aviv

The American Princess by Nissim Aloni
Translated from the Hebrew by Richard Flantz
78 pp. 21 x 13.5 cms. English 1980.

THE AMERICAN PRINCESS is a typical Aloni play, complicated, symbolic — and original. King Boniface, Victor Felix of the House of Hohenschwaden, is now in exile in South America, having been deposed from Greater Bogomania (note the names!). He tries to revive his past, using modern techniques like a tape-recorder (which has an important role in the play, sometimes like the chorus in a Greek tragedy). The whole time the son is in conflict with the king — the only two actors in the play — and finally murders him.

Aloni is introduced to English readers by the Institute for the Translation of Hebrew Literature, which aims at introducing the best of Hebrew literature to foreign language readers.

Children's Books

Israel's Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Book and Printing Centre of the Israel Export Institute have concluded an agreement which will enable Israeli publishers to attend the Bologna Children's Books Fair.

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Ladbroke plans \$10m. Eilat holiday camp

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

In a move which marks the largest single British investment in Israel tourism to date, the Ladbroke Group last week announced that it is about to build a holiday camp in Eilat capable of accommodating almost 1,000 guests.

Speaking at a press luncheon at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, John Jarvis, chairman and managing director of Ladbroke Holidays, explained that the facility, to be located behind the Larom Hotel, would include 168 "villas," each with room for up to six people.

Guests would be able to cook for themselves, buy ready-cooked meals or eat in an informal dining area. Entertainment facilities would include a free-form swimming pool, complete with waterfalls and

bridges, an amphitheatre for evening barbecues, and daytime activities for children. There would also be a night club with "very lively" entertainment.

The permanent staff is to consist of a small core of 24 department heads, with other workers recruited from the ranks of British and Israeli students and young people from around the world, who come to Eilat for a few months. Instead of uniforms, he said, the staff would dress informally, wearing costumes for special events.

Although the Ladbroke group is headed by Cyril Stein, a prominent British Jew and one of the founders of the Conservative Friends of Israel, Jarvis stressed that the decision to set up the camp was based purely on commercial considerations. The holiday camp is to cost an estimated \$10m.

The first Ladbroke holiday facility to be located outside the UK, it will aim to attract Israelis and groups from all over Northern Europe as well as Britons.

Jarvis described the general appeal as "popular," but added that the occasional management level guest might well see the camp as the perfect holiday place to go to with children. Although he could not say what prices would be at the time of opening, such a holiday today would cost about \$400 a week for a villa sleeping six.

Tourism Minister Gideon Patt said that with the uncertainty over continued use of the present airport at the Etzion airbase, the government is actively considering construction of a new international airfield, either four or 11 kilometres north of Eilat.



Finance Minister Yoram Aridor drinks with Sir Isaac Wolfson to the successful close of a transaction last week, when they signed the documents transferring Wolfson's ownership of Paz Properties Ltd. to the government. Through its control of this company, the government now owns two-thirds of Paz Oil Co. (Zoom 7)

Exports key to survival, MK says

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

In his last speech in the Knesset, Shimon MK Stef Wertheimer said last week that if Israel expects to survive as an independent, Zionist state it must double its per capita output and triple its exports.

The Nahariya industrialist submitted his resignation in order to give Stella Levi, number 17 on the original list of the Democratic Movement for Change, an opportunity to serve in the Knesset. Levi, a former commander of Chen, the women's army corps, is expected to be sworn this week.

Wertheimer spoke on a motion for the agenda entitled, "Accelerated Industrialization as the Key to Our Zionist Existence." He said that "the next stage of Zionism is industry."

Wertheimer noted that there are 90 categories of people entitled to priority in getting telephones, from the prime minister to Jewish



Stef Wertheimer

Agency officials. Not included in the list are "production manager" or "producer for export." This, Wertheimer said, was a perfect reflection of the low esteem in which industry is held.

Wertheimer, who owns the Iscar metal tools plant, charged the Bank of Israel with being "hostile" to the

productive sector and with having turned the stock market into an instrument for selling government linked bonds, which he said is not the way to lick inflation.

The stock market was no longer filling its true function of raising capital for private enterprise, Wertheimer said. As a result, Israeli companies are selling more of their shares abroad than at home and the public has no share in Israel industry.

Wertheimer said there are too many public employees engaged in social welfare. As a result, the "unfortunates" do not get into any productive endeavour, go through life without self-respect, and are a burden on the taxpayer.

Wertheimer noted that electricity for industry costs 30 per cent more than it does abroad, while electricity for domestic use costs 30 per cent less. This, too, exemplifies a failure to appreciate the vital importance of industry.

Dentists protest against taxmen's tactics

By MOSHE KOHN
and SHLOMO MAOZ
Jerusalem Post Reporters

Private dentists throughout the country are expected to follow the example of their Jerusalem colleagues, who closed their offices one day last week to protest against what they call high-handed treatment by the tax authorities.

But tax investigators who had raided dental offices and laboratories in the capital early this month countered that two-thirds of those visited were found to have failed to register or report income. Among those implicated, they said, were a former Prisoner of Zion who reached Israel 18 months ago.

Over 20 of Jerusalem's 250 dentists and seven dental laboratories were included in the sweep, which followed the gathering of intelligence by the tax authorities. Ten of the dentists did not record revenues, and three dentists and a technician were caught evading taxes, it was alleged. They are expected to be brought to trial.

Deputy income tax commissioner and head of its investigation department Yosef Levin denied last week that his staff had used any unusual methods. They went to dentists targeted according to previously gathered information, he said, interrogated them and patients leaving

the offices, and examined books. Only three of the suspects were held overnight, he said, after evidence was found that they were involved in large-scale tax evasion.

Nevertheless, angry Jerusalem dentists threatened to "simply go on vacation for an indefinite period" if what they see as harassment from the tax authorities does not cease.

In an effort to improve the situation, the Dentists Association in Jerusalem is hiring a lawyer and a certified public accountant to advise its members on how to deal with the tax authorities. It is also hiring a public-relations expert to tell the public more about the good side of dentists, the way they treat and charge patients, and how "the general run" of dentists pay their due taxes and otherwise obey the law.

At the same time, they will send

delegations to the relevant government ministries and Knesset bodies to discuss the matter.

"The situation has become intolerable," several dentists complained. Among the allegations against the tax people is that they "barged into clinics" and hurled unfounded accusations at the dentists in the presence of patients, search their desks and conduct body searches for "contraband" money, for which the dentists presumably intended not to report. The tax people allegedly enter the dentists' homes in the same manner, unannounced, humiliating them in the presence of their children or guests.

All the dentists *The Jerusalem Post* spoke to reported knowing several colleagues who had left Israel because of their treatment by the tax people.

British trade mission here for study

TEL AVIV. — A fourteen-man trade mission, members of the British Overseas Trade Group for Israel (BOTGI), arrived here early last week to discuss commercial possibilities with local companies. The group, which is led by Michael Fox, executive secretary of BOTGI, was to spend a week to explore the business opportunities.

The interests of the mission include machine tools, micro-switches, banking, printed circuit boards, building products, weaving looms, rotary vacuum pumps, computer consultancy and training, PVC window frames, and industrial power transmissions. Eight of the firms do not have representatives here.

Bigger mortgages for settlers

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The number of new immigrants buying flats on the private market is expected to jump, following the government's decision to increase the size of mortgages retroactively to January 16.

The Absorption Ministry announced last week that starting this week, new immigrants (during their first five years in the country) will be entitled to get higher housing loans, which are partly linked.

A family of up to four persons buying a flat in Jerusalem costing up to a ceiling of IS495,000 is entitled to a mortgage from the government of IS230,000, and IS165,000 in the rest of the country if the flat costs up to IS410,000.

Olim families will also get subsidies during their first three years

in the country to help them pay back the mortgage.

Single olim over the age of 30 may receive a loan of IS100,000 if the Jerusalem flat costs no more than IS375,000, and a loan of IS85,000 if the flat, located anywhere else in the country, costs less than IS300,000.

The minimum age that entitles single immigrants to housing in Absorption Ministry/Jewish Agency hostels has been lowered from 25 to 23. In addition, the age limitation for single olim soldiers eligible for flats in such hostels has been cancelled.

Such changes were made possible partly by the slowdown in aliya and resultant vacancies in hostels and absorption centres, as well as by the realization that single olim are an important reservoir of potential immigrants.

Israel leads world in inflation

GENEVA (UPI). — Soaring inflation continued to sap world economic strength in 1980, with only a handful of countries keeping prices in check, the International Labour Organization (ILO) said last week.

An ILO survey for the 12-month period ending last September showed that Israel easily led the global inflation league, with consumer prices jumping 131.5 per cent.

Switzerland was at the other end of the scale, with a rate of 3.8 per cent.

Only four other industrial nations managed to keep inflation below the double-digit mark — West Germany with 5.2 per cent, Austria and

the Netherlands with 7 per cent each, and Japan with 8.9 per cent.

Most other developed countries had price increases of between 10 and 20 per cent — Australia (10.3 per cent), Canada (10.7), United States (12.6), Norway (12.9), France (13.6), Sweden (15), United Kingdom (15.9), New Zealand (16.4).

Inflation rates of more than 20 per cent were reported by Italy (21.3), Greece (24.4), Yugoslavia (31.1) and Iceland (57.6).

Developing countries reporting to the ILO all had high inflation rates, except for Malaysia with 6.2 per cent, Tunisia with 8.6 per cent, Puerto Rico and the Ivory Coast with 9.8 per cent.

IAI gets IS12m. grant to develop Astro

Post Economic Reporter

Israel Aircraft Industries will receive a IS12m. allocation from the Ministry of Industry and Trade to encourage the development of its Astro 1125 executive jet, which replaces the Westwind 1124 model. This is the first time the chief scientist of the ministry's Industrial

Research Administration agreed to grant funds to the Israel Aircraft Industries, after turning down numerous such requests.

Industry and Trade Minister Gideon Patt was convinced during a recent tour of IAI facilities that the project was worthy of a ministry development grant.

A spree of spending and of saving

By SHLOMO MAOZ
Post Economic Reporter

There has been a sharp increase in the purchase of cars and TV sets following a three-month reduction in taxes on certain goods announced recently by Finance Minister Yoram Aridor. The plan is intended to boost taxes, despite the reduced amount, by an increase in sales.

During a five-day period, from February 9 to 13, 6,000 TV sets and 4,228 cars were sold. Treasury sources also said that IS620 million were deposited in new two-year savings plans during the past two weeks.

Treasury officials estimate that deposits in the savings plans (introduced as a way of curbing spending) will reach IS1.5 billion and the revenue from taxes on the consumer durables sold will reach IS300m. within the next three months.

The Treasury estimates that 200,000 TV sets will be sold this year, compared to 120,000 last year. In January, 13,300 TV sets and 608 cars were sold, and IS320m. was attracted to the old savings plans.

Meanwhile figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics state that the average urban family needed IS5,900 in January to buy its "basket of goods and services," but without the cost of housing the figure comes to about IS4,500. The average national wage is

IS3,400 per month.

The survey, for the period June 1979 to May 1980, used a sample of 2,300 families to estimate the budgets of 900,000 urban families. The survey indicates that about 30 per cent of the expenditure of the average urban family (excluding that for housing) went for food. Transportation and communication accounted for 12 per cent of the outlays, while 10 per cent went for education, culture, and entertainment and 9 per cent was spent on apartment maintenance.

The Statistics Bureau last week reported a 7.3 per cent rise in the January cost-of-living index. The annual inflation rate has stabilized at 134 per cent over the last nine months.

The biggest push to rising prices came from the cost of housing, which rose by 11.5 per cent in January. The price of fruits and vegetables rose by 13 per cent, while the cost of all other foodstuffs went up by 4 per cent.

The January prices were strongly affected on the cost side by the cost-of-living increase paid to workers, which caused a jump in the price of goods and services.

A Treasury spokesman said last week that with the announcement of the January index should be clear to the public that the Treasury is doing all in its power to keep prices

down, under the existing circumstances.

But highly-placed economists in the Treasury told *The Jerusalem Post* that artificially freezing the prices of petrol and basic foods will eventually necessitate both the printing of more money and the raising of prices. Thus, double damage is incurred by freezing prices, since there is no way to permanently avoid matching the prices of goods and services with their actual cost.

The Knesset Finance Committee last week approved a IS7 billion supplementary budget for the current fiscal year. This brings the budget for fiscal 1980/81 to IS97.1b., compared with IS42.5b. in 1979/80. The Alignment failed to have the budget cut by IS4.5b., in a bid to prevent the injection of further large sums into the economy this year.

The government's total domestic deficit — the difference between what it spends and what it receives from the local economy — will thus come to IS8.6b. by the end of the fiscal year ending March 31. This compares with a domestic surplus of IS0.35b. envisaged in the original draft budget tabled a year ago.

This huge deficit is the result of the government's attempts to hold down the prices of basic commodities, a drop in tax revenues, and higher government spending.

Mexican bank and Hapoalim set up fund for high-technology industry

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Bank Hapoalim and Mexico's official industrial development bank, Nacional Financiera S.A. (NAFINSA), recently signed an agreement to set up a joint investment fund. The fund will promote the establishment of ventures for industrial projects in selected fields between the two countries.

"This cooperation comes as part of the Mexican government's policy of promoting high-technology in-

dustrial, which can contribute to the rapid development of the Mexican economy," the Bank Hapoalim spokesman said yesterday. He added that "in this context the Mexican government also seeks to encourage Israeli firms which can export to Mexico machinery and know-how in high-technology fields."

Several joint projects in the fields of food industry, chemicals and solar energy are already in advanced stages, and will be able to benefit from assistance by the fund.

Number of jobless on the increase

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Figures released by the Employment Service for the first half of the month indicate a rise in the number of jobless.

The number registered as unemployed for more than six days reached 12,233, compared with only 11,231 in the first half of January.

The total number of registered unemployed in the whole of last month was 15,469, compared with 14,837 in December and 13,999 in November.

Similarly, the number of registered job seekers rose to 27,380 in the first half of February, compared with 26,174 in January. At the same time the number of job vacancies fell from 9,825 to 9,017.

TAU chair in banking

TEL AVIV. — A chair in multinational banking will be dedicated at Tel Aviv University next year. Donated by Yonah Goldrich, a construction company owner from California, the chair will be part of the faculty of business administration.

Research will focus on local banking policy, credit administration, and the management of Israeli banks. Seminars on banking subjects will be held next year in Los Angeles and at Tel Aviv University.

Rates of exchange

Foreign Exchange rates against the Israeli Shekel (S.S.1)	Israeli
U.S. dollar	6.8209
British sterling	19.5190
German mark	3.9604
French franc	1.7109
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Swiss franc	4.3562
Swedish krona	1.8500
Norwegian krone	1.5917
Danish krone	1.2910
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2.11	1.13	Leumi	0.10	0.13	3.24	1.11	Alliance "B" (10)	0.14	0.16
2.23	1.13	Union	0.18	0.17	7.2	3.09	Amer. Int. Paper Mills	0.32	0.30
4.10	2.93	Hapoalim Reg.	2.19	2.69	0.4	0.06	Argaman (S) - Textiles Ordinary Reg.	0.02	0.02
7.3	4.94	I.D.B. Bankholding Ordinary (20)	0.44	0.46	2.56	1.7	Ala (C) - Textiles	0.02	0.02
		Mahat Reg. (S)			3.76	0.76	Dabek (S) - Cigarettes (S) Reg.	0.21	0.37
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		General Mortgage Reg. (S)	0.59	0.57	1.16	0.06	Electra (S) Elect. Equip.	0.27	0.27
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We call on our generous-hearted brethren to come to the aid of a family which finds itself in dire economic straits. We are closely acquainted with this family and its sick little girl. Several others of the family's acquaintances and friends have volunteered assistance. Now we call upon the public at large to perform this great mitzvah as they have in similar instances in the past, because the family itself is too modest to come forth on its own with a request for assistance.

May all who offer their help be blessed with good health, and may they prosper all the days of their lives.

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Rabbi Binyamin Yehoshua Zilber
Author of "Brit Olam"
and other works.
We too wish to add our signature to the request for assistance.
Tu B'Shvat 5741.

Rabbi Bessal Zolki
Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem

Rabbi Shalom Yosef Elyashiv,
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THE ARTS

THE HAIFA SYMPHONY Orchestra has, for the umpteenth time, announced a reorganization, in order to improve its economic base and lift its professional level "to that of its sister orchestras in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Beersheba." A commendable aspiration, but also a very ambitious one.

With which orchestras is the comparison being made? Obviously the Israel Philharmonic or the Chamber Orchestra, the Jerusalem Symphony and the Beersheba Sinfonietta. To achieve this goal, according to Dr. Zuharia Drucker, the chairman of the board, this season's programmes were filled with the popular repertoire — Tchaikovsky, Dvorak, Brahms — which attracted many hundreds of new subscribers. For two concerts, the hall was sold out.

And in order to cover at least 25 per cent of the budget, it is planned to give many more performances for the concert circuit, for the *Jemmes Musicales* in schools, and for locations outside Haifa, especially in the north.

Uri Toeplitz, the new musical director of the HSO, reports that the orchestra has lately been strengthened, especially by new immigrants, though some wind players and a double bass are still lacking. He intends to enlarge the orchestra to a complement of 65.

A case for modesty

MUSIC AND MUSICIANS/Yohanan Boehm

Dr. Toeplitz hopes that for next season the HPO will have a conductor "for at least three consecutive months."

This last statement must cause some raised eyebrows, for the orchestra — indeed, any orchestra — needs a permanent conductor for every day's work, training, supervision and attention to its needs, professionally and otherwise. But as things are today, most orchestras are happy to get a conductor to stay for as long as three months. The situation of the IPO with Mehta and the Jerusalem Symphony with Bertini is typical, and these are well-established orchestras with certain traditions and loyalties and a special attachment on the part of the conductors to the country.

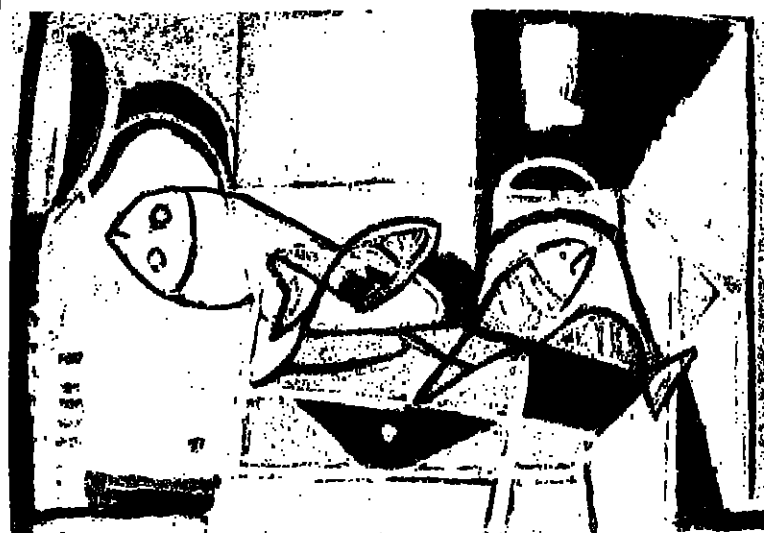
If the Haifa Symphony hires a conductor whose interests are mainly in another orchestra abroad — and in many cases even in two others — what will he do to raise its professional standards and induce an *esprit de corps* that will get it out of the doldrums? Why not be a bit more modest and look for one of the young Israeli conductors who

has no foreign ties yet to undertake the task?

As for programming, the HSO should take into account the limitations of its present membership, and leave the symphonies of Tchaikovsky, Dvorak and Brahms and other more ambitious works alone for the time being. The programmes should not be dictated by the personal desires of visiting conductors who want an opportunity to rehearse their private repertoires for use abroad, whether or not they are within the competence of the Haifa orchestra.

The HSO should develop a repertoire — popular, by all means — which does not duplicate the programmes of the country's established orchestras, for this is not the time to go into competition with them. After so many years of creeping demoralization and lack of support, it has to build up a reputation slowly. Only a careful, long-range plan can turn the Haifa Symphony into an ensemble that will fulfil the justified expectations of a large and musical segment of the country's population.

FROM THE GALLERIES



Pinchas Abramovich: still life, oils. A mini-retrospective of the works of this artist, spanning over four decades, has been on view at the Hillel Gallery in Jerusalem. Abramovich was one of the leaders of the New Horizons movement founded here in the late forties.



Ruth Zarfati: watercolour illustration to a story by Nurt Zarchi. Art Editor Meir Ronnen wrote in the daily edition of The Post: A marvellous record of Zarfati's work, from childhood and adolescence to her adult career as a leading illustrator, maker of doll and puppets and unusual sculptress, is set out in a new exhibition at an eminently suitable venue: the Youth Wing of the Israel Museum. It is accompanied by a delightful little book (in Hebrew) entitled, "I Was a Child Painter"...

Ruth Zarfati-Sternschuss was born in Petah Tikva and studied at the Ami Studio for four years during World War Two. Just before the War of Liberation she studied with sculptor Moshe Sternschuss and right after the war she married him. She also joined the New Horizons Group. In the fifties and sixties she made dolls and wavings for Maskit. She has illustrated a dozen children's books, one of which she wrote herself.



"Figures in Clay," now at the Israel Museum's Youth Wing, is a delightful show that will likely intrigue adults as much as children. Five Israelis, none of them "classic" ceramicists, exhibit over 400 figurines and accompanying works in what are actually five separate shows. One corner of the hall is devoted to a depiction of a ceramicist's studio. Tables for young visitors to try their hand with clay are also available and the results are exhibited on convenient shelves.

The show as a whole is rather stolen by U.S.-born David Morris, whose anthropomorphic wheeled gods, bizarre heads and figure groups that are neither beast nor human (picture on left) strongly recall the fertility figures, fetishes and votive objects of early man.

(Extracted from a review by Meir Ronnen.)

The Giora Feidman experience

By LEON HADAR
Post New York Correspondent

THE TUNES of klezmer music will mix with the works of Leonard Bernstein at New York's Lincoln Centre on March 18 in a concert by Giora Feidman. His musical biography makes sense of this unorthodox programme.

The centuries-old klezmer music — the traditional tunes played at weddings and other Jewish celebrations by many generations of East European Jewish musicians — are a Feidman family tradition. And the other part of his repertoire — Leonard Bernstein, George Gershwin, Scott Joplin and Debussy — were acquired during a life lived in many places. The Lincoln Centre concert will also include the spirit of Middle East peace, as Arab musician Ali Hafid will play the darbuka and the 'oud, a drum and a string instrument used in Oriental music, and a group of Israeli musicians will also perform.

Feidman was born in Argentina to a family of klezmerim, the players of Jewish folk music. ("Klezmer" derives from *klei zemer*, the Hebrew for "musical instrument".) His great-grandfather played for the tsar, his grandfather



was well-known as "Gedalia der Klezmer." There is a long, long tradition of klezmer families passing on the profession, explains Feidman. The cultural and social life in East European Jewish communities centred on the klezmer, who played many instruments and who, through the melodies he played, preserved music played especially for Jews from one generation to another.

As a youngster, Giora accompanied his father and older brother when they played at weddings and other Jewish events. He also studied at a musical academy and at 17

became the youngest member of the Buenos Aires Opera Orchestra.

At 21, Feidman emigrated to Israel and joined the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. He became a principal clarinetist and bass clarinetist and, at the same time began his search for forgotten klezmer melodies. To do this he talked with people who thought back 50 years and more to recall melodies they knew in their youth. "I succeeded in finding the link with the past, with the old country and the Hassidic *rebbe's* court," Feidman says.

He prepared a collection of Jewish folk music and, travelling the country with his clarinet, created a national sensation at the grass roots level. Israeli students, kibbutzniks and professionals became his most enthusiastic fans. Feidman calls klezmer music the "soul music of the Jewish people." According to him, it originated in prayers and thus amounts to almost a personal expression, a human sound.

Feidman believes that the concert in Lincoln Centre's Avery Fisher Hall will be an important step in introducing klezmer music to contemporary Jews and in showing non-Jews an important element of Jewish culture.

A literary classic goes on the stage

SOME 40 YEARS AGO, when the first news of what was happening to the Jews of Europe began to reach this country, and the country itself was threatened by the approach of Rommel's forces, the Hebrew novelist Haim Hazaz wrote a piece entitled *The Oration* which caused perimousious debates in the Yishuv. It has since become a classic of Hebrew literature, and the Haifa Theatre has now staged it as a one-man show, directed and performed by Michael Kfir.

The Oration is exactly what the title says. It is delivered by Yudek, a young *halutz* from the Ukraine, to a group of comrades. Yudek who cuts stones by day and stands watch by night, is an idealist with problems

and doubts. His speech is the painful effort of a man not used to systematic thinking let alone to verbalizing his thoughts in public. Added to it his imperfect command of Hebrew, and the interruptions of a dis-senting audience, and one can appreciate the young man's ordeal.

And yet, despite the halting speech, the groping for words, we get a clear idea of what troubles Yudek. He is concerned with Jewish history, with the past as it reflects on the present. For him, there has been no Jewish history for 2,000 years. It is the gentiles who made our history, who handed it to us ready-made in the form of persecutions, pogroms, banishments. Nothing was willed by the Jewish

people. And the Jews simply loved it, wallowed in their sufferings. While playing for redemption, they hoped the exile would continue forever. Now, Yudek concludes, we have to get rid of this shameful past, wipe it out, and start afresh.

The Oration is long, and naturally verbose, but Michael Kfir succeeds in giving it a personal dimension by his projection of the character of Yudek. Watching and listening to him, one can forget the novelist Haim Hazaz expressing his views on Jewish history, and accept Yudek, the young *halutz*, who after sleepless nights, has summoned up the courage to share his thoughts in public.

MENDEL KOHANSKY

EDITORIAL COMMENT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1981

End of an ordeal

THE "MISSING" Yosef Mendelevich, whom the Soviet authorities were somehow unable to locate following his mysterious "disappearance" from a labour camp in the Ural Mountains last week, turned up yesterday morning in Vienna, en route to Israel, where he arrived last night.

Whenever a Prisoner of Zion comes back home, the whole community of Israel shares in the joy of reunion. But Yosef Mendelevich's case is more unusual than most, and he deserves special acclamation. He was a member of that intrepid, and reckless, group who attempted a dramatic break for freedom by stealing an airplane in Leningrad airport and trying to fly it across the Soviet border. Later he was the last Jewish prisoner among that group to be kept behind barbed wire, and the one to have suffered the most punishment for his unbending loyalty to his national and religious convictions. Last October he began a hunger strike in support of his right to teach Hebrew to fellow-inmates.

Moscow is mute on the circumstances of his sudden and devious release.

It is, however, reasonable to assume his release was meant by the Soviet authorities to serve as a curtain raiser for the Communist Party's congress opening next Monday. Although this would not necessarily be officially acknowledged, it is presumably to be interpreted as a deliberate gesture of goodwill aimed at Western public opinion, and perhaps as an olive branch directed at U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

The reports of a more liberal Soviet policy in granting exit permits for Jewish emigrants appear to be greatly exaggerated. At best, they indicate no change sufficient to alter the precipitous downward trend of the exit graph: 3,800 permits in December 1979, 800 in January 1981. The fact that a few score more permits have been issued this month is neither here nor there. It certainly does not belie the conclusion, reached some time ago, that the Soviet authorities are taking advantage of the enormously increased drop-out rate among the Jewish emigrants to clamp down even on aliya itself.

The Soviet argument, as expected, is that by choosing to go to the U.S., or Canada, or Australia, rather than to Israel, the drop-outs have made it impossible for the Kremlin to explain Jewish emigration to similarly covetous Soviet nationalities, such as the Ukrainians, as a legitimate movement of repatriation. The hypocrisy of the argument lies in the fact that it was the Soviets themselves who largely created the problem by favouring visa applicants from Russian cities known for their aversion to the idea of aliya.

Therefore, it would be too much to see in the release of Yosef Mendelevich an augury of a more liberal Soviet policy. For the moment, though, it is good to know that a long-suffering Prisoner of Zion is safe at home.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1981

Condemned to strikes

THE SCHOOL TEACHERS insist that a start, however modest, be made on implementing the Etzioni Commission's recommendations on teachers' pay and working conditions. The government insists that no such start, however small, be made. That is the nub of the dispute, that caused the teachers to shut schools down for one day yesterday.

There is irony in this. For just five weeks ago the cabinet endorsed the Etzioni recommendations, and ordered that they be put into practice. In doing so the cabinet overruled the then finance minister, Yigal Hurvitz, who claimed that it would undermine the government's wage restraint policy, accelerate inflation beyond anything known in the past, and bankrupt the exchequer.

In fact, Mr. Hurvitz used his anticipated defeat in the cabinet over this issue as the official cause for his resignation, which in turn prompted the cabinet to advance the date of the general election from November to June 30.

Now Mr. Hurvitz's successor, Yoram Aridor, is taking up the Treasury's old cry, albeit less stridently, in total disregard of the cabinet's original decision on the matter — and with not a murmur of dissent from his colleagues. During the past week Mr. Aridor's negotiators were offering the teachers a lollipop in the form of a seven per cent "wage erosion compensation." This is to serve as a substitute for the Etzioni proposals.

That is precisely what Mr. Hurvitz had suggested to the teachers when he was finance minister. The teachers would have none of it then and they will have none of it now. They want a beginning, no matter how minimal, to be made on Etzioni. They realize that if the government that launched the Etzioni Commission, formally endorsed its recommendations and committed itself to their implementation fails to make such a beginning, the next government, free of any such obligation, could so much more easily fail to come through.

Perhaps the teachers are asking too much — although they are surely not asking for the moon. They are not pressing for anything like an immediate award of the 30-60 per cent wage hike recommended by the Etzioni Commission. But they recall that they have been waiting two years now since they ended their 1978 strike with the promise of a thorough investigation and reform of their "status."



Recently released Prisoner of Zion Yosef Mendelevich is greeted by Premier Menachem Begin on Friday at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. (Elihu Harari)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1981

Sadat takes a detour

WHETHER President Sadat's revival of his old idea about a Palestinian "government-in-exile" is a strategic turnabout or only a tactical policy shift, is a legitimate subject for argument. Either way, however, it represents a serious, and disturbing, development in Egypt's peace diplomacy.

The curt dismissal of the renovated idea by Premier Begin was both understandable and entirely proper. For what Mr. Sadat in effect proposes is that the areas of the West Bank and the Gaza District should be recognized by all and sundry, including Egypt and presumably Israel and the U.S., as the territories of a now-occupied Palestinian state whose exiled government, to be formed by PLO as well as non-PLO personnel, is to take a seat in any peace negotiations as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people striving to "restore" their sovereign domain.

This formula could, logically, be derived from the Egyptian diplomatic vocabulary nine years ago, when it was first, and unsuccessfully broached to the PLO. To offer it again now, against the background of an Egyptian commitment to the Camp David agreements, is at best bizarre. Mr. Sadat would through his proposal predetermine the final disposition of the West Bank and the Gaza District — which is precisely what the five-year autonomy, envisaged in the accords, is meant to keep in abeyance.

Indeed it is hard to see what useful purpose the autonomy, taken seriously, could serve once Israel, or even Egypt alone, decided that the regions to which it applied had a legitimate "government-in-exile."

Admittedly Mr. Sadat has demonstrated a measure of consistency in resurrecting his idea. Looked at closely, it reveals afresh the Egyptian president's enduring ambition to go down in history as the one-and-only Arab leader who steered the Palestinians onto the path of securing an honourable satisfaction of their national rights. To achieve that end, Mr. Sadat has long felt that it would be necessary to dilute the PLO's monopoly of Palestinian leadership by vesting it in a wider, more representative body, which would also be closely tied to Egypt.

No wonder the PLO has rejected the idea again this week. To the terrorists it evidently smacked of another attempt to alienate the Palestinians from the PLO and from its Syrian and Soviet patrons. Yesterday Mr. Sadat in so many words confirmed that this was his intention.

The timing of Mr. Sadat's revivalist act, however, suggests still another intention. For surely it was no coincidence that it followed the Egyptian president's visits to Luxembourg and Paris, and the talks he had lately held in Cairo with a string of some very important European persons, including the foreign ministers of Britain, Italy and Holland, and most recently with Austria's Chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

Early reports from Luxembourg said Mr. Sadat had dazzled the Europeans assembled in Parliament there; it now appears the Europeans had also dazzled Mr. Sadat with their own bright ideas about the Palestinians...

The least that can, and must, be said about this approach is that it is wholly irreconcilable with the spirit of Camp David, and puts in doubt the entire concept of the autonomy...

President Sadat's own explanation yesterday, that the idea of a Palestinian "government-in-exile" was completely unrelated to the issue of the autonomy, explained nothing. It only added to the confusion.

MONDAY, FEB. 16, 1981

Absentee Minister

SIXTY F-15s, already sold to Saudi Arabia, are to be equipped with offensive accessories. The deal is to be consummated by President Reagan's new administration in disregard of an explicit undertaking by former President Carter, when he forced through the original sale of these ultra-modern fighter-bombers back in 1978.

Israel's government is concerned, and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir is scheduled to take the matter up in his talks in Washington this week. The points he will make are fairly predictable: the dangerous violation of a solemn prior commitment; the implied reward to the Saudis for their intransigence; the added threat to Israel's security. Apparently, however, he will content himself with assurances of a decent military compensation to this country for the new Saudi deal.

With its limited diplomatic resources as badly strained as they are, Israel can ill afford another bitter defeat of the kind suffered three years ago in the attempt to block the original sale of the S-15s.

Mr. Shamir's choice to plead Israel's case on the issue of the upgrading of the jets is entirely natural, of course. The foreign minister has already articulated the official view on this, as have several other members of the coalition's ruling circle.

Likud leader Menachem Begin, who is both prime minister and — since Ezer Weizman's resignation eight months ago — defence minister as well, has kept mute all along. Indeed his voice has hardly been heard, not only in public but also within the defence establishment on any major issue related to defence ever since he assumed his extra burden, at first on a supposedly temporary basis.

Mr. Begin's voice has not been heard on the implications for this country of the changing strategic realities in the region, nor on such immediate tactical issues as the recent row over UNIFIL's charges — now admitted to have been false — in Lebanon. He has not disciplined generals who overstepped the bound of their authority by jumping into the political thickets, nor has he made any senior military appointments in months.

Knowledgeable sources in the defence ministry have described the recent handling of the defence budget under his aegis as a "masterpiece of mismanagement." The ordering of priorities in the light of the spending cuts, which involves high-level decisions on such long-term projects as the Lavie fighter, is being delayed...

In short, the defence ministry has no chief, and defence no authoritative spokesman nor decision-maker. The defence establishment, which spends some 40 per cent of the total government budget, is left in the hands of generals operating at will in a vacuum of civilian control. In that void, only the voice of Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Zipori, a man considered at the time by Mr. Begin to be unsuited for the top defence post, is being heard, and, not surprisingly, is not always listened to...

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READERS' LETTERS

Israel's 'short-sighted' attitude to emigrants

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — Many of your recent articles have stressed that emigration is Israel's most important national problem, even warranting a Knesset debate. The unsettling impact of this problem on Israeli society has been leaked abroad and is currently being aired in a way damaging to Israel's image in widely circulated publications.

This is a time when the world perceives Israel as increasingly isolated and devoid of friends and support and when many Israelis see themselves as needing to have to go it alone, not only because of lack of overt support, but because of real indifference on the part of many as to whether Israel survives. Consequently, at this time, any potential source of support should be encouraged. Yet, Israel persists in rejecting a wide circle of potential friends: the 500,000 Israelis, more or less, who have emigrated abroad. This policy is unenlightened, full of adolescent rancor and pride, and certainly not in the best self-interest of the State.

It is hurtful to see good people leave. To cover the pain, an adolescent, immature response is "good riddance", "we can manage very well without them", "ignore them." But the depth of this anger and the extent to which an emigrant Israeli is cut off reveals how much Israel does care and how much these people are needed.

Each time the Israeli government pushes away and castigates the yored, it further cuts the bond that

ties this person to Israel. Each time it creates an atmosphere of welcome and room for involvement, it builds a bridge which might ignite a desire for eventual return and make that return more possible. For many Israelis who move abroad have ambivalent feelings. Often when they move, it is originally not conceived of as a permanent step. It may be a result of university study which extends to a career or a hope for temporary relief from stress — economic or social. Often emigrant Israelis are "on the fence" or "sitting on suitcases" and are torn between positive features of life in Israel and life in another country. It is only when the hostile climate of feeling against emigrant Israelis or direct government policy makes the emigrant feel uncomfortable or unwanted that he or she is pushed over the fence to remain permanently in another country.

A mature response on the part of the Israeli public and Israeli policy makers would be to sense the ambivalence and strong desire for ties with Israel on the part of many Israeli emigrants and to ask how this can be turned into an advantage for the State. It is obvious that the current policy of recrimination and rejection has not worked to the advantage of anyone. It has only served to highlight the exodus in a negative way and to disillusion some prospective immigrants who pause and question: if so many are leaving, am I a fool to want to make aliyah. Often emigrant Israelis who

would return to Israel for visits do not come because they are made to feel guilty, like deserters, or are subject to bureaucratic pressures. The result is that their children are not exposed to Israel nor do they forge ties there. Frequent unhindered visits by an emigrant family are often the bridge which brings the next generation, or indeed the family, back to Israel. It is a shortsighted policy that while Israel is working so hard to entice young people to come, at the same time it is creating barriers which influence the most likely candidates, the children of former Israelis, not to come.

Israel should also realize that most people who have left will not be attracted back by material incentives and should not be given extra monetary benefits. The resentment which arises from this gesture at the expense of permanent residents could and should be eliminated. Former Israelis will be attracted back first by a forging of goodwill and an opportunity to maintain ties. They will be attracted back by developing a stake in Israel's progress and future through meaningful community work on behalf of Israel abroad. They will be attracted back by viable work and housing.

Meanwhile, an isolated Israel is ignoring and rejecting 500,000 potential friends and the future allegiance and love of their children, and achieving what good?

MINDEL MILLER
Southfield, Michigan.

MILITARY JUSTICE

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — It has been said that "military justice is to justice as military music is to music." Unfortunately we have seen far too many demonstrations of the truth of this saying in Israel in the past year.

It was painful enough to read of sharply reduced sentences for the murderers of prisoners of war and to learn of the light punishment meted out to those who stole explosives with which to blow up a mosque. Now we read of the comparatively harsh sentence handed down to an Israeli soldier who has refused to obey an order for reasons of conscience.

In the light of Jewish experiences with soldiers who were "only obeying orders," I must say that God Elgazi is a hero in my book.

RABBI PHILIP J. BENTLEY
Jericho, New York.

'ANTI-SEMITISM WIDESPREAD IN ARGENTINA'

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — In his letter of January 15, the Argentine Ambassador tries to play down the magnitude of anti-Semitism in Argentina, as exposed in Rabbi Rosenthal's article of January 4 and attributes anti-Semitic incidents to the "obscurantism of a few individuals." With all due respect, I feel it is my duty to state that this view is, to put it mildly, inaccurate.

Widespread anti-Semitism has been and is endemic in Argentina, both in unashamedly overt and covert forms. As in all endemic diseases, outbursts of major virulence alternate with milder ones.

From personal experience and that of reliable acquaintances, I know that Jews are consistently denied promotion in the armed forces and in most universities (which are mainly government in-

situations) for the sole reason that they are Jewish.

In his article, Rabbi Rosenthal describes recent concrete incidents of anti-Semitism supported by evidence — not distant and vague ones, as Mr. Casal writes — such as bombs in Jewish schools, seminars and synagogues, desecration of cemeteries, harder physical punishment for Jewish prisoners, and hate-filled arguments in government-owned radio stations. Ambassador Casal does not refer to these crimes, nor does he mention that they were denounced by Jewish representatives to the Minister of the Interior. This is not surprising, since these denunciations always produce the same results: the Jewish leaders appealing for justice return empty-handed after hearing polite promises "to look into the matter."

In his attempt to play down the

extent of Argentine anti-Semitism, the Ambassador states that "a growing number of Argentinians and Israeli Jews decide to come back to Argentina." This reasoning is, at best, weak. For the sake of argument, let us consider the situation of Jews in the Soviet Union, which is well-known to be oppressive. Yet, from time to time, one hears of individuals choosing to return to the "Soviet paradise" after a stay in Israel. Can these isolated decisions be taken as proof that the status of Soviet Jews is not appalling?

Unfortunately, until such a time when one single culprit will be indicted in Argentina for anti-Jewish abuse, be it verbal or physical, we shall have to continue believing that anti-Semitism is officially condoned in that country.

CONCERNED
(Name and address supplied)
Rishon Lezion.

READERS' LETTERS

ARAB-ISRAELI CONFRONTATION

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — Mahmoud Lamadanie, a student at Beir Zeit University, wrote "...this letter in the hope that it will be published although I am a Palestinian, whom you consider your enemy" (January 18). I would like to ask this young man if he knows of a single instance except in Egypt which has signed a peace agreement with Israel, when a Zionist or an Israeli had a letter published by an Arab newspaper or magazine, or who has appeared on Arab TV or radio. Did he ever hear of a debate between an Arab and an Israeli in any Arab country? I've seen dozens of letters of Arabs published in The Post and elsewhere criticizing Israel. However, I recall instances of Arabs refusing to debate Israel or appear on the same programme with them. Indeed, Arabs do not even stop at the same hotels, if they know Israelis are staying there. And how many Israelis or Jews are permitted to go to Arab universities as of right?

Lamadanie says that if only the Israelis "recognized" the PLO and agreed to a Palestinian state, all would be peaceful and harmonious. The Jews did recognize the "Palestinian national rights" when they accepted the Partition Resolution of November 29, 1947. Why didn't the Palestinians set up a state, without which they can't live today? The Israelis didn't always control the West Bank and Gaza. Why didn't the Palestinians (with permission of their Arab "brothers") build a state between that date and June 5, 1967? Who stopped them? In truth, the Palestinians were and are nothing but pawns in the hands of this or that Arab state, depending on the vicissitudes of the different Arab leaders' internecine warfare. A Palestinian state would be a staging area for the next assault against Israel. Everyone in this world above the age of six knows it.

IRVING SCHECHTMAN
West Palm Beach, Florida.

FRONT ORGANIZATION

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — A front organization is one that covertly serves the interests of a particular group while overtly pretending to serve other, neutral interests. The Committee of Concerned Citizens, disclaimers from its Executive Director Zeld Harris and other correspondents notwithstanding, is clearly fronting for the Labour Party.

A recent Jerusalem Post article by Sarah Honig gave quite a full account of the CCC's haggling for places on the Labour Party's Central Committee. It is also disingenuous to pretend that the high position of the CCC's President,

Chaim Herzog, in the Labour Party leadership and Zeld Harris' own involvement with Na'amat (the Labour movement's women's organization) is merely coincidental.

The fact that the Jerusalem branch of CCC has invited two eminent and highly respected members of Shinui to address it is not merely irrelevant, but typical of front-organization tactics — use personalities from outside your ranks to establish your bona fides and neutrality with a glib public. This is a classic ploy for any front organization.

ELAINE BREWER
Jerusalem

YEAR FOR THE DISABLED

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — In October 1980, the Israel Hand Wheelchair Basketball team participated in tournaments in the United States. The goodwill and outstanding public relations generated for Israel by each of the players are to be applauded.

In this, the International Year for

the Disabled, I would like to encourage the Government of Israel to send back these fine citizens of Israel whose examples, courage and spirit made everyone in the United States who met them feel closer to the State of Israel.

MARLENE POST
Manhasset Hills, New York.

FILM-MAKERS' HEARTWARMING EXPERIENCE IN ISRAEL

Sir, — Back in California after having worked several weeks on the filming in Israel of the Perry Como Christmas Special, I want you readers to know how much I loved the work experience in Israel, where we were assisted by an amazingly competent and friendly crew.

"Masada" may have been a back-breaking short — but it certainly gave those in the film industry in Israel an excellent opportunity to learn. I found myself in profound conversations with some members of the crew. Thoughts about Jewish identity and desire to assist in the future growth of Israel's film and television industry were shared.

I was working with and surrounded by a group of people — mostly men — who were my own age and occupied by the same or similar work and interests — and the result was a strong identification. I loved the way they worked together and supported each other and pitched in to get the job done. The camaraderie and lack of competition were delightful and refreshing. It occurred to me that

aside from a small matter of birthplace — these men could just as easily have been me as I them — so many similarities exist. I think of myself as very fortunate to have been born and raised in America — especially California — but I do feel a certain purpose in life, a focus, a struggle that these men experience that I'll never know — really. I have been raised in a culture of the "line of least resistance" and utmost comfort. The Israelis I came to know have no concept of the luxuries of life or having free time to kill.

I have also been raised — and it was the ultimate aim of my grandparents and parents — to assimilate into acceptance of the white Anglo-Saxon Protestant majority and to suppress my ethnicity enough to pass as an "American" — meaning WASP. My presence at Bob Banner Associates and Perry Como Christmas Specials is testimony to the success of my grandparents' goal. But when I worked in Israel this time and met these boys with whom I identified so strongly and thought of how hard a time they

would have in Hollywood if they chose to break into the industry, I felt sad. Sad also because of the so freely toward each other without self-consciousness.

What I'm saying in a capsule is that Israel is truly a haven for the Jewish people — a place where self-expression, mutual understanding and demonstrative love of life can be expressed in the Jewish manner with Jewish gestures and joyfulness. Granted, if an American Jew should choose to live in a situation where his only friends are Jewish and his social and work life is solely spent amongst Jews, perhaps a similar freedom of expression is possible. For my generation that idea is, I'd say, 75 per cent impossible. And for someone in Los Angeles with desires to work in show business, it is 95 per cent impossible.

I do know though that, after this trip, I feel a new desire to return sometime in the future and to share my knowledge and experience in relation to the budding film and TV industry in Israel.

STAN M. BRODSKY
Los Angeles, California.

PRAISE FOR THE LOCAL SURGEON

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — On attending the Royal Marsden Hospital, Belmont, Surrey, last week for my regular post-mastectomy follow-up examination, the surgeon-professor said as follows: "I have nothing but praise for the Israeli surgeon who performed this operation. It clearly demonstrates that the radical mastectomy, well performed by the latest American methods as this one was, has all the advantages and none of the disadvantages of the older type." He then continued to enumerate these advantages to his students.

I would like to add my thanks to the surgeons of the Kaplan Hospital, Rehovot, who performed the operation.

GRATEFUL
(Name and address supplied.)
London.

THE AGGRESSOR AND THE VICTIM

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — So the American diplomat Harold Saunders was persuaded by the "suffering Arab people" that they were "ill done to" (January 9). So they were, in the sense that the German and Japanese peoples were "ill done to" by their defeat in 1945. Apparently it is still not realized, even by one of Mr. Saunders' stature, who was the aggressor and who was the victim.

If the Jews would have lost, there would have been no one left to tell the tale, but as things turned out differently than planned by the Arabs, they have been busy ever since trying to turn their defeat into a position of strength by any means available — like the touching anecdotes told by Mr. Saunders.

It should finally be recognized, despite oil-clouded judgment, that, if the Arabs had not, over the years, forced the small Jewish population in Palestine into a posture of self-



Harold Saunders

defence, there would never have been a war in 1948 and Israel might well have emerged as a small, agrarian state without the need of a huge army. All subsequent history would then have been entirely different.

M. A. HARTOG
Haifa.

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